

狂骨の夢

1

きょうごくのなつひこ



原作 京極夏彦 きょうごく なつ ひこ
作画 志水アキ し みづ



狂骨の夢

THE CRAZY BONES DREAM

story: Kyougoku Natsuhiko art: Shimizu Aki
translation & typesetting: sana @ shikiganai scans



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

This is the third installment in Kyougoku and Shimizu's "Kyougokudou" series.

Part One: Ubume no Natsu (The Summer of the Ubume)

Part Two: Mouryou no Hako (The Box of Spirits)

Part Three: Kyousukotsu no Yume (The Crazy Bones Dream)

Part Four: Jorougumo no Kotowari (The Spider Woman's Truth)

Side Story: Hyakki Tsurezure Bukuro (A Mixed Bag of Demons)

You'll be pretty lost if you haven't at least read "Ubume," and "Mouryou" has an excellent (and underappreciated) anime adaptation. However, the main cast from Ubume doesn't actually show up until about 200 pages into this series... this entire volume is all one very long introduction.

The Kyousukotsu, or "Crazy Bones," is a type of youkai depicted in Toriyama Sekien's "100 Demons of the Past." The youkai takes the form of a shrouded, skeletal figure, and is said to curse those who commit the crime of abandoning the dead. Kyousukotsu are most frequently found lurking in wells - tales of murder victims dumped in wells are very common in Japanese scary stories, and they always get their revenge in the end...

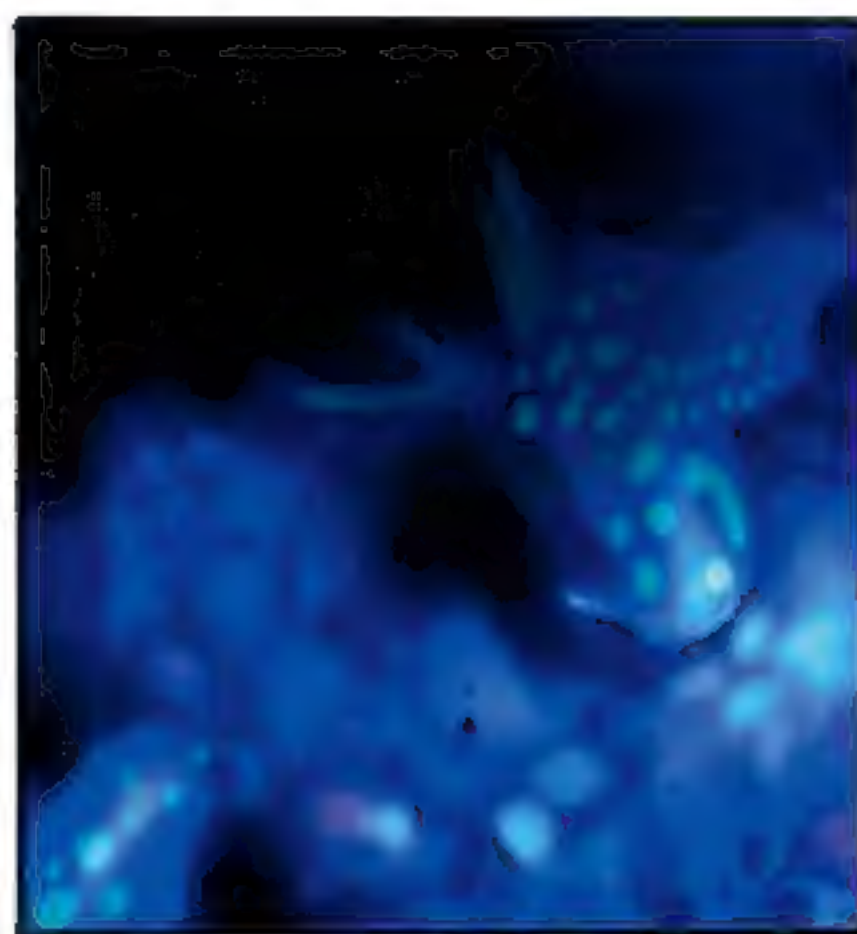
The story is set in 1952, immediately after the events of "Mouryou no Hako." The setting is the Kamakura area, about an hour outside Tokyo.

The chapters in this manga are all 100+ pages, so I might end up splitting them for my own sanity.

Please be warned that some chapters are NSFW. They will be marked, with content warnings as needed.



CHAPTER 1

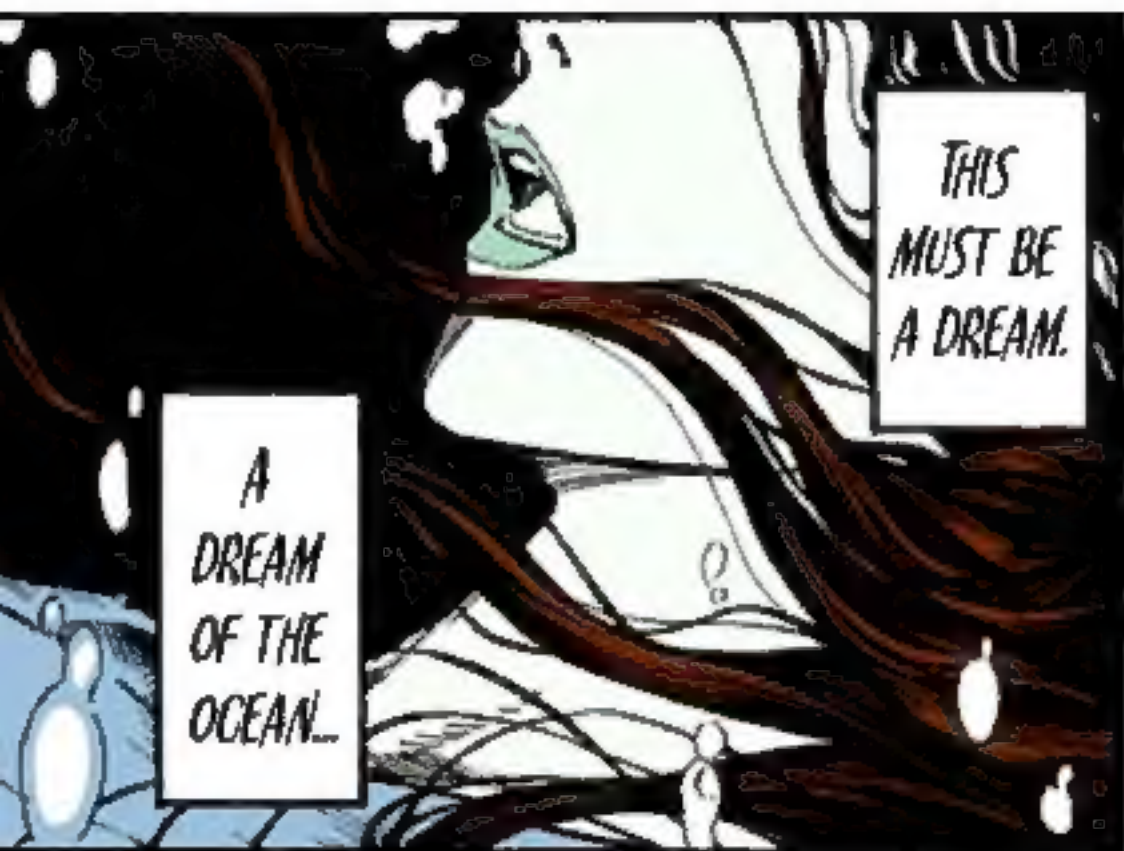


狂骨の夢

1



原作 京極夏彦
作画 志水アキ



A
DREAM
OF THE
OCEAN...

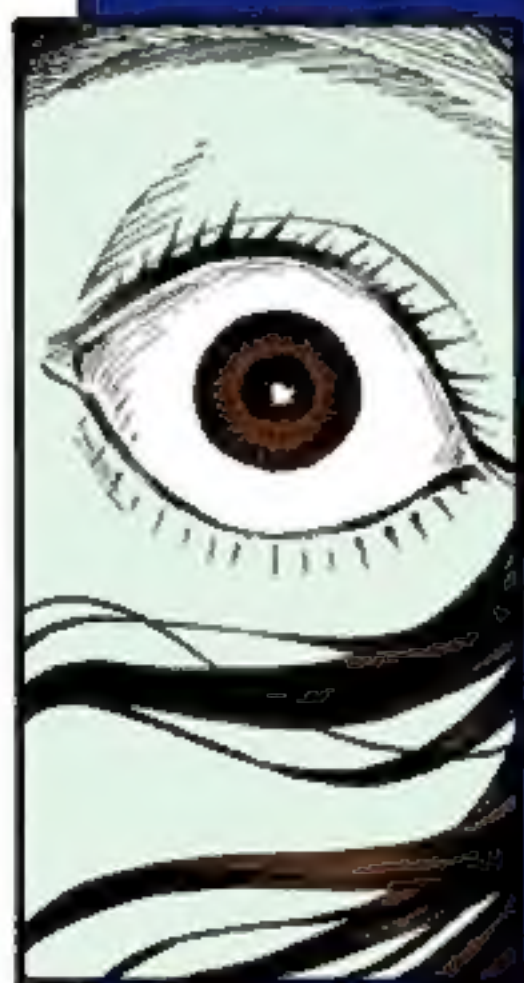
THIS
MUST BE
A DREAM.

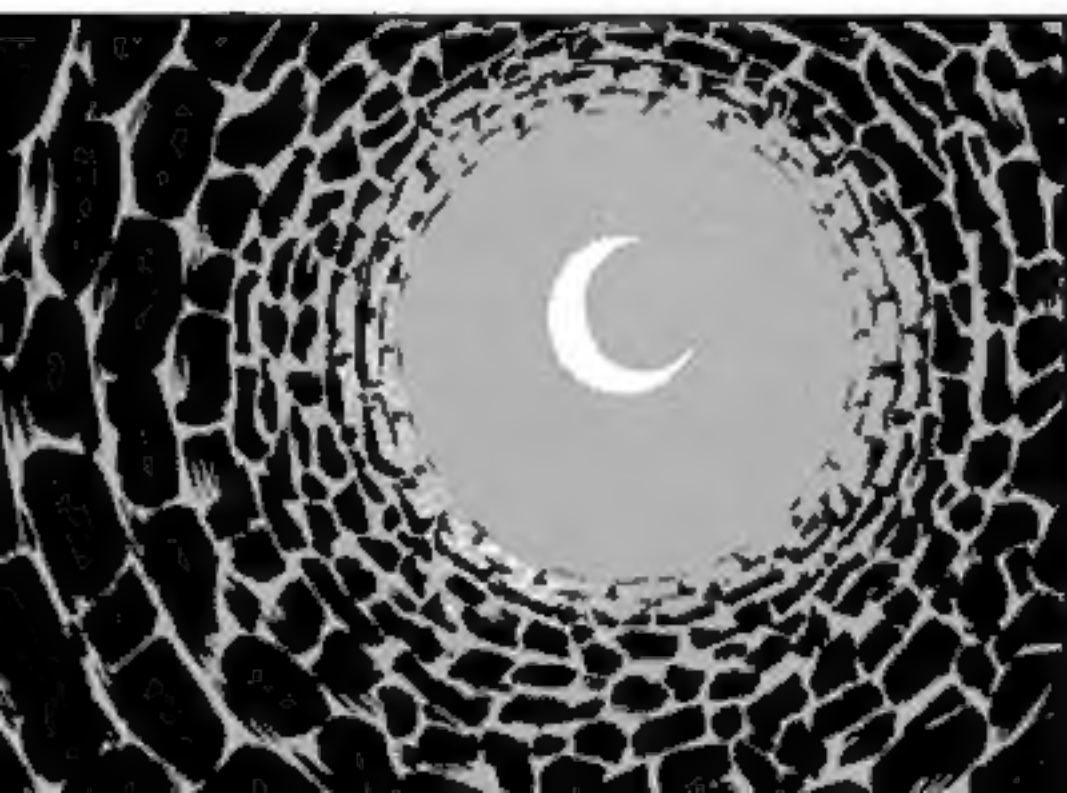
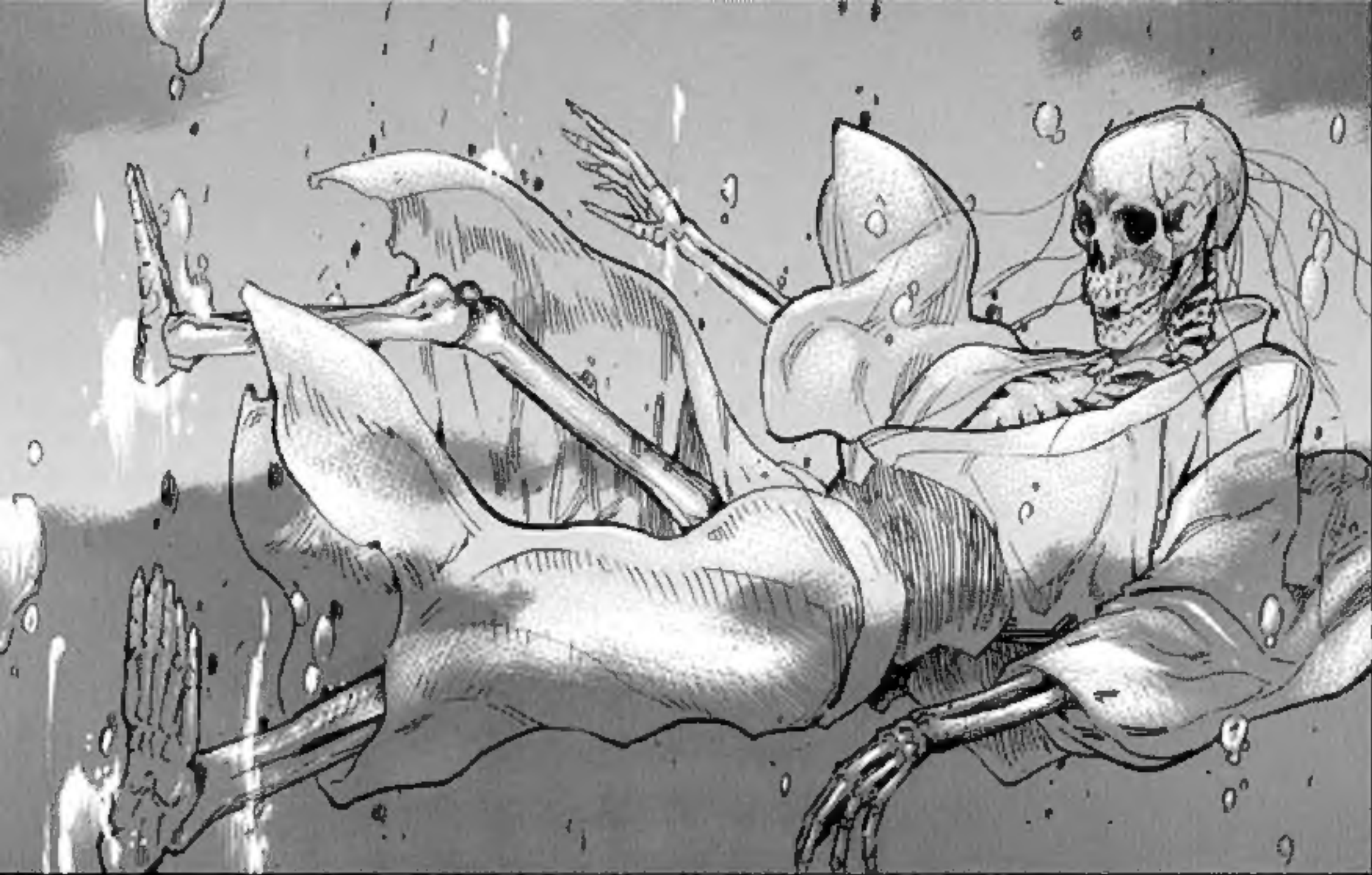


I CAN
FEEL THE
SALTY
WATER
FILLING
MY LUNGS.

I'M SINKING
INTO THE
DEPTHS
OF THE
DARKNESS.



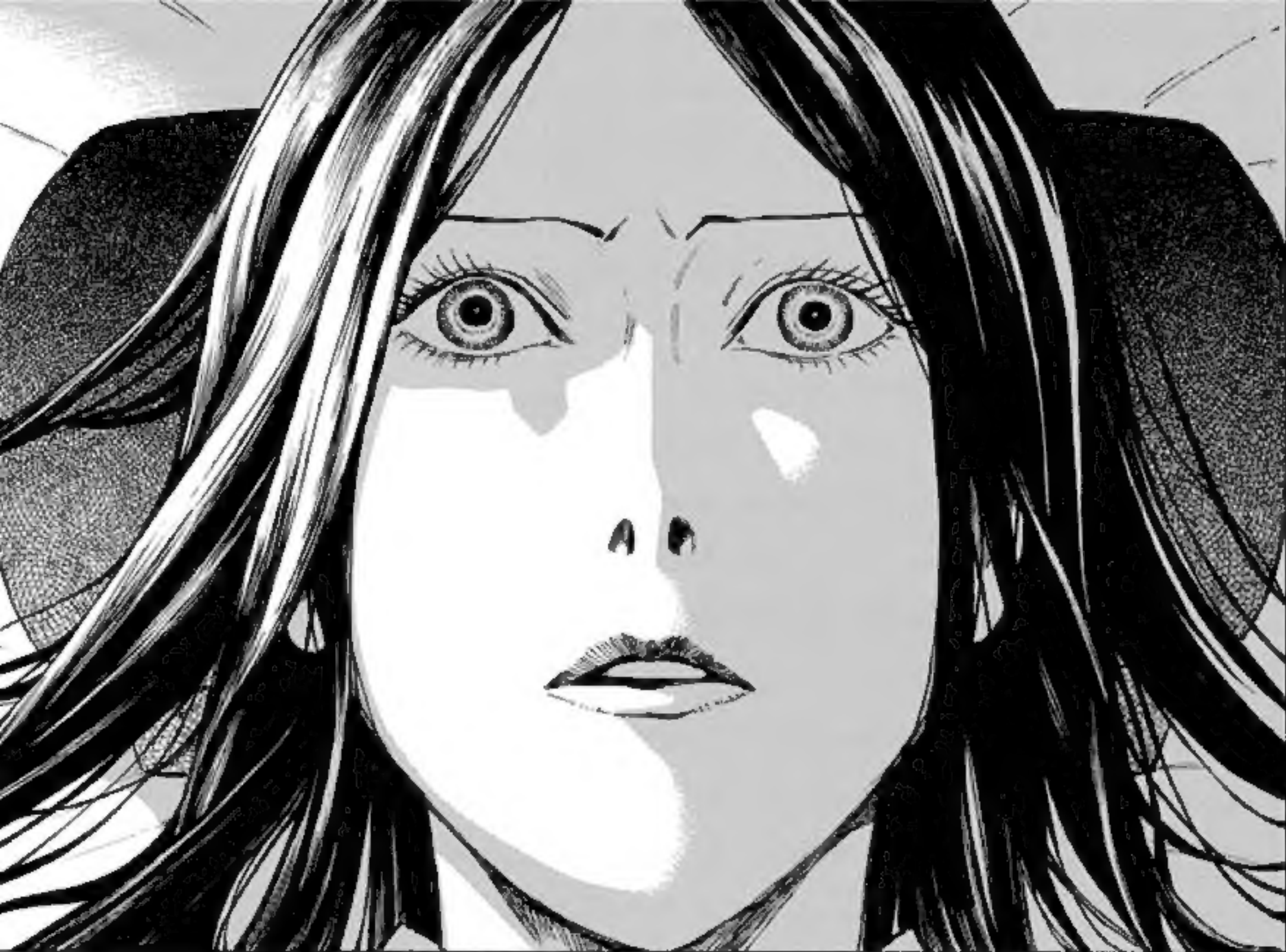




A black and white illustration featuring a human skull in the center, surrounded by a swirling, vortex-like pattern of concentric circles. The pattern is rendered with dense, dark, brush-like strokes, creating a sense of intense motion and depth. The skull is positioned in the middle of the vortex, looking directly forward. The overall composition is circular, with the vortex filling most of the frame. The style is reminiscent of a comic book or horror illustration.

No...

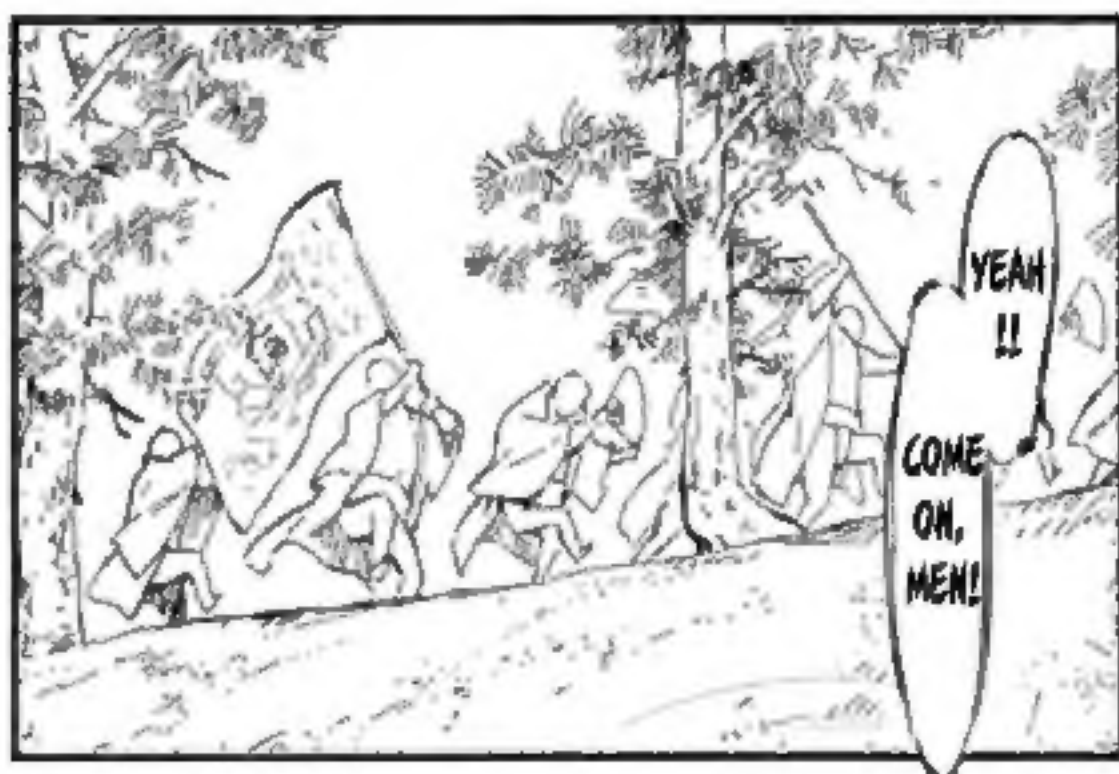
*I'M
TRAPPED
AT THE
BOTTOM
OF A
WELL...*





IN A
LITTLE
VILLAGE
ON THE
SHORE OF
KUJUKURI
BEACH.

I WAS
BORN...



YEAH !!
COME
ON,
MEN!



HOO-
RAY!
HOO-
RAY!

PRAISE
THE
GODS!



THE NAME
OF THE
TOWN WAS
HITOTSU-
MATSU,
I THINK.

HEAVE-
HO!
HEAVE-
HO!

PRAISE
THE
GODS!
LET'S
PRAY
FOR A
GOOD
CATCH
!!

IT WAS
A SMALL
VILLAGE
OF LESS
THAN TEN
FAMILIES.



THERE
YOU
ARE!



Big
brother!!



THE ONLY
THING
I CAN
REMEM-
BER...

IS THE
RELENTLESS
SOUND OF
THE WAVES.



ONE DAY,
A STRANGE MAN
CAME AND TOOK
ME AWAY...
I NEVER SAW
MY FAMILY AGAIN.
I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
THEIR FACES.



出

CRASH
騷

CRASH
騷

CRASH
騷

CRASH
騷

騷

騷



WAIT,
NO...

I WAS
BORN IN A
MOUNTAIN
VILLAGE IN
SHINSHU...
THE OCEAN
WAS MILES
AWAY.

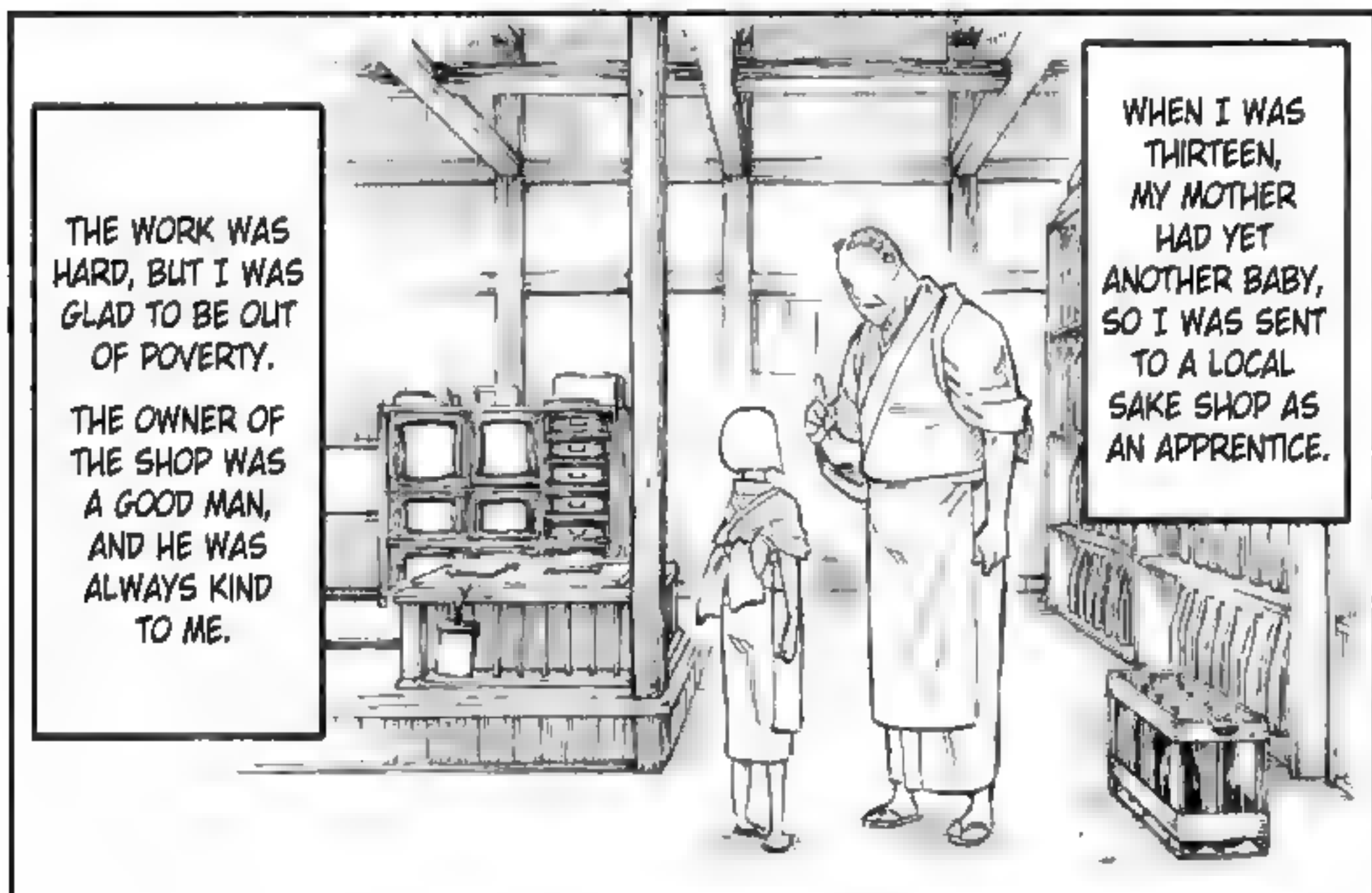


WE WERE
VERY POOR,
SO I WAS
ALWAYS BUSY
WORKING
AROUND THE
HOUSE.



I WAS
THE OLDEST
CHILD...
I HAVE TWO
YOUNGER
SIBLINGS.

AND I
DON'T
HAVE AN
OLDER
BROTHER.



THE WORK WAS
HARD, BUT I WAS
GLAD TO BE OUT
OF POVERTY.

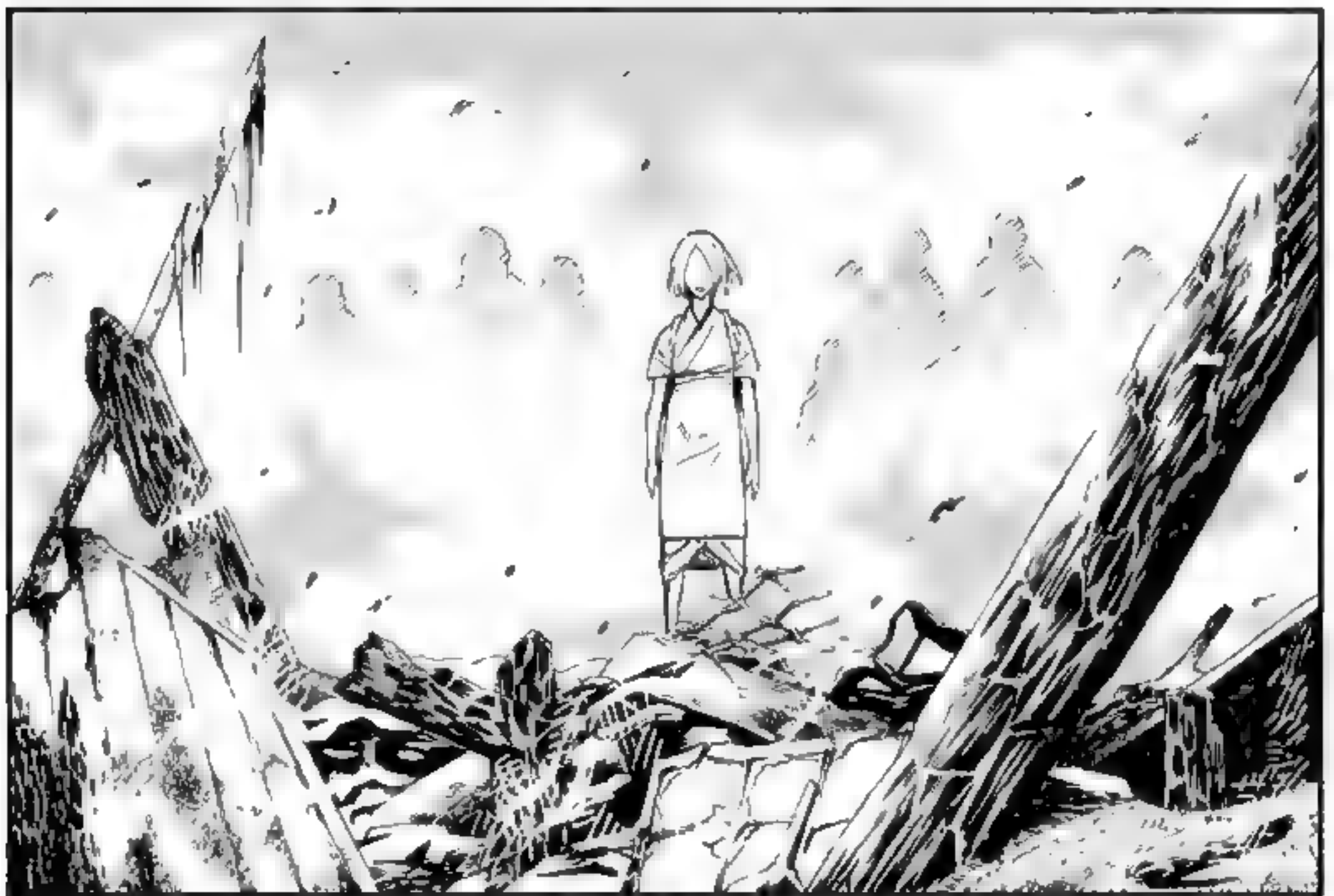
THE OWNER OF
THE SHOP WAS
A GOOD MAN,
AND HE WAS
ALWAYS KIND
TO ME.

WHEN I WAS
THIRTEEN,
MY MOTHER
HAD YET
ANOTHER BABY,
SO I WAS SENT
TO A LOCAL
SAKE SHOP AS
AN APPRENTICE.



MY CHILD-
HOOD
HOME WAS
DESTROYED
BY FIRE.

WHEN
I WAS
17...



THE WAR
HAD JUST
STARTED,
SO NO
ONE CARED
ABOUT A
FIRE IN
A LITTLE
TOWN.

THE
CAUSE
WAS
NEVER
DETER-
MINED.



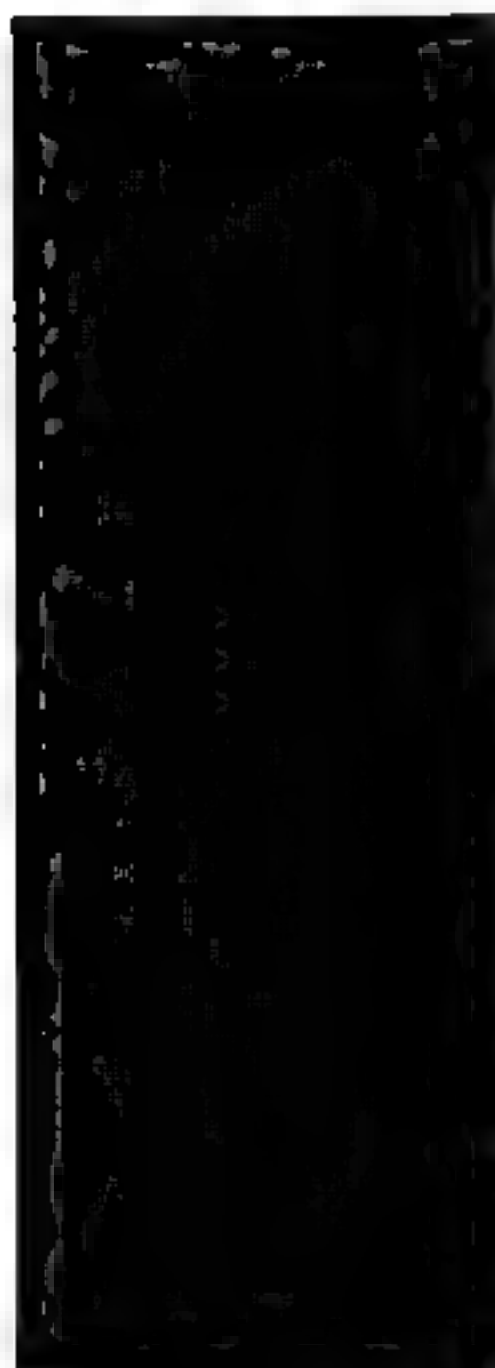
MY
ENTIRE
FAMILY
PERISHED
IN THE
BLAZE.



MY HUSBAND
WAS A QUIET
MAN FROM A
POOR PEASANT
FAMILY...
WE LIVED
TOGETHER
WITH HIS SICK
FATHER.

JUST WHEN
I THOUGHT
THAT WE'D
PEACEFULLY
SPEND OUR
LIVES
TOGETHER...

THE OWNER
OF THE SAKE
SHOP BECAME
MY LEGAL
GUARDIAN,
AND THE
NEXT YEAR
HE ARRANGED
A MARRIAGE
FOR ME.



ARMY DRAFT NOTICE

右記時召集ヲ命セラルル依テ左記日時對齊地ニ集齊ン此
ノ令狀ヲ以テ當該召集事務所ニ提出シ

召集部隊	到着地	到着日時
西部第...部隊	西部第...年...月...日	昭和...年...月...日

I SUFFER FROM AMNESIA.
I'VE LOST MY MEMORY.

I CAN'T REMEMBER...

AND THEN...

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

I MUST HAVE BEEN SO ASHAMED THAT I TRIED TO DROWN MYSELF IN THE BAY.

WELL, I TRIED, ANYWAY.

I WAS SHUNNED BY THE OTHER VILLAGERS BECAUSE OF HIS COWARDICE, AND MY FATHER-IN-LAW SOON PASSED AWAY.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT MY HUSBAND TRIED TO DESERT FROM THE ARMY. HE DIED IN DISGRACE.

IT'S ONLY IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL.

EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST GONE.

IN ANY CASE, I SOMEHOW SURVIVED.

BUT MY MEMORIES WERE GONE.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WAS THE SORT OF PERSON WHO WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE.

I MUST HAVE BEEN POSSESSED...



THE MAN WHO
RESCUED ME IS
MY CURRENT
HUSBAND.



HE MUST BE
AT LEAST THIRTY
YEARS OLDER
THAN I AM...

HIS FIRST
WIFE DIED OF
TUBERCULOSIS.

WELL, WE
AREN'T OFFICIALLY
MARRIED.

I'M JUST A
COMMON-LAW
WIFE.



THAT'S ALL
HE EVER SAYS
ABOUT IT.



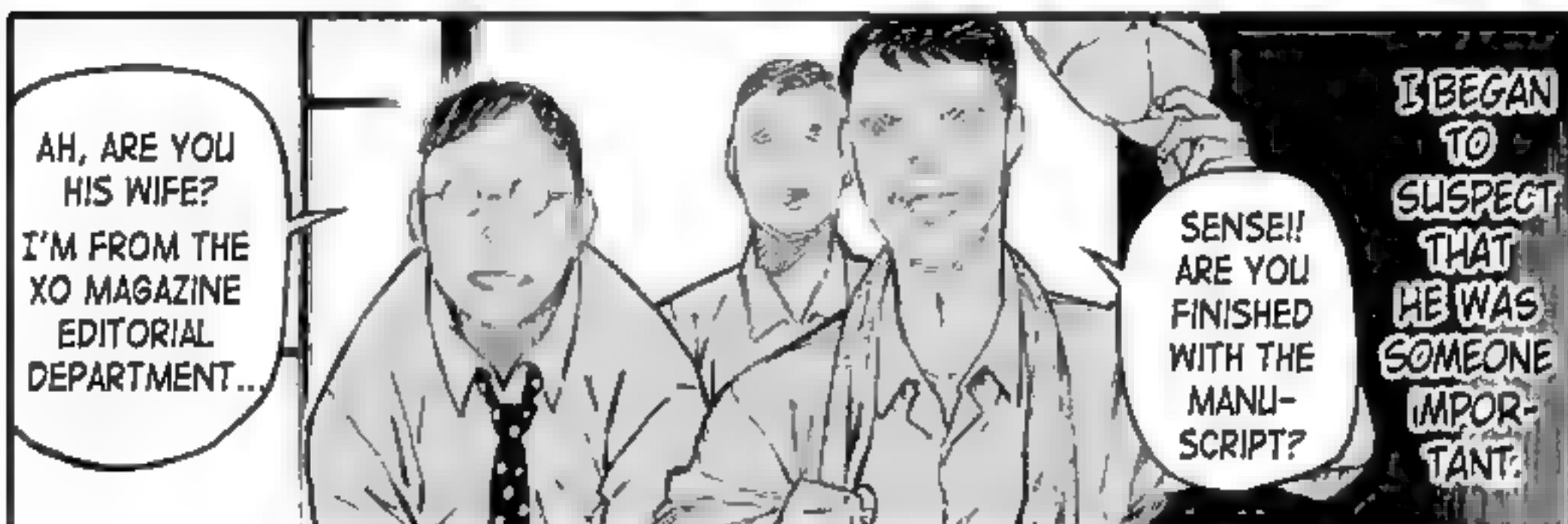
YOU
SWALLOWED
A LOT OF
WATER.

MY
HUSBAND
NEVER
TALKS
ABOUT THE
DAY HE
RESCUED
ME.

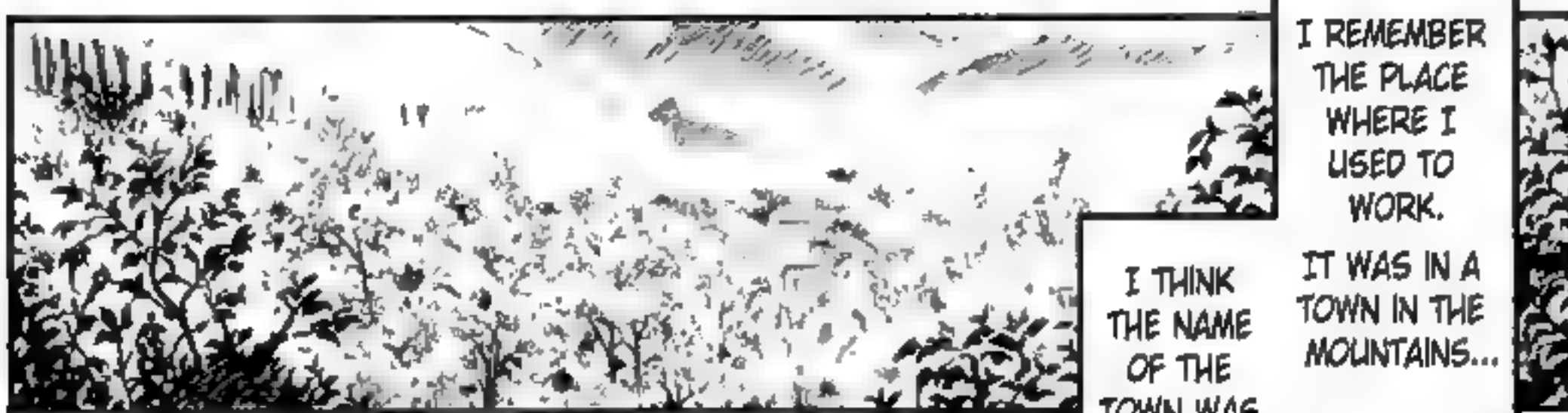


WE STARTED
LIVING-TOGETHER
AS MAN AND WIFE
SOON AFTER
I RECOVERED.

BEFORE
I KNEW IT,
EIGHT
YEARS
HAD
PASSED...







Sign: Kamoda Liquor Company

I REMEMBER
THE PLACE
WHERE I
USED TO
WORK.

IT WAS IN A
TOWN IN THE
MOUNTAINS...

I THINK
THE NAME
OF THE
TOWN WAS
SHIOTA-
DAIRA.

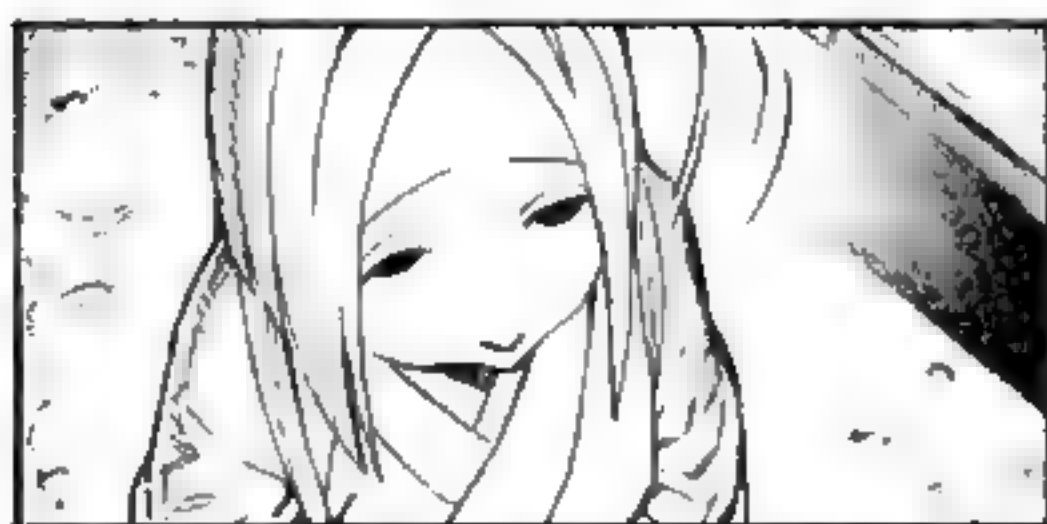


IT WAS
A VERY
LARGE
SAKE
SHOP.



YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THE ONES YOU LOVE.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR MEMORIES.



HOW ARE YOU FEELING? I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU LATELY, BUT IT WILL GET BETTER.



I'M NOT YOUR BOSS! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BOSS LOOKS LIKE?

BOSS !!!



HUH? THE BOSS IS OVER THERE.

BOSS !!



PEOPLE'S FACES WERE JUST A BLUR TO ME.

I COULDN'T REMEMBER HIS WIFE'S FACE, OR THE FACES OF THE OTHER EMPLOYEES.

IT WASN'T JUST THE BOSS'S FACE...



I TAUGHT MYSELF HOW TO READ AND WRITE!

THEY TREAT ME LIKE I'M ONLY FIT TO DO MENIAL CHORES... BUT I KNOW I'M SMART!



THAT GIRL'S A BIT OF A HALF-WIT, SO YOU'VE GOT TO SPEAK SLOWLY WHEN YOU'RE ORDERING HER AROUND.



THAT GIRL HASN'T EVEN WORKED HERE AS LONG AS I HAVE, AND SHE'S ALREADY GETTING PROMOTED... MEANWHILE, I'M STUCK WORKING IN THE BACK.



I WANT TO GO HOME...

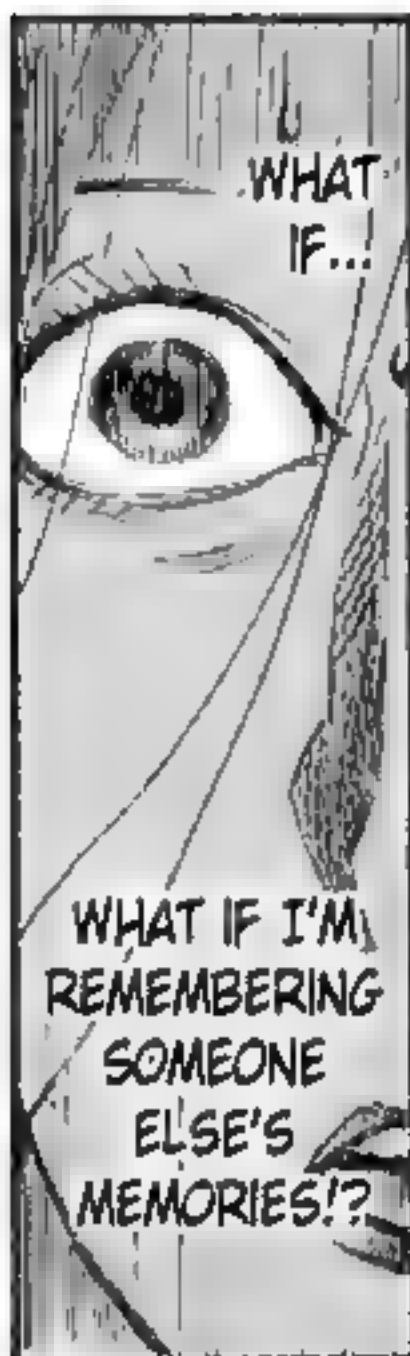
I MISS THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN.

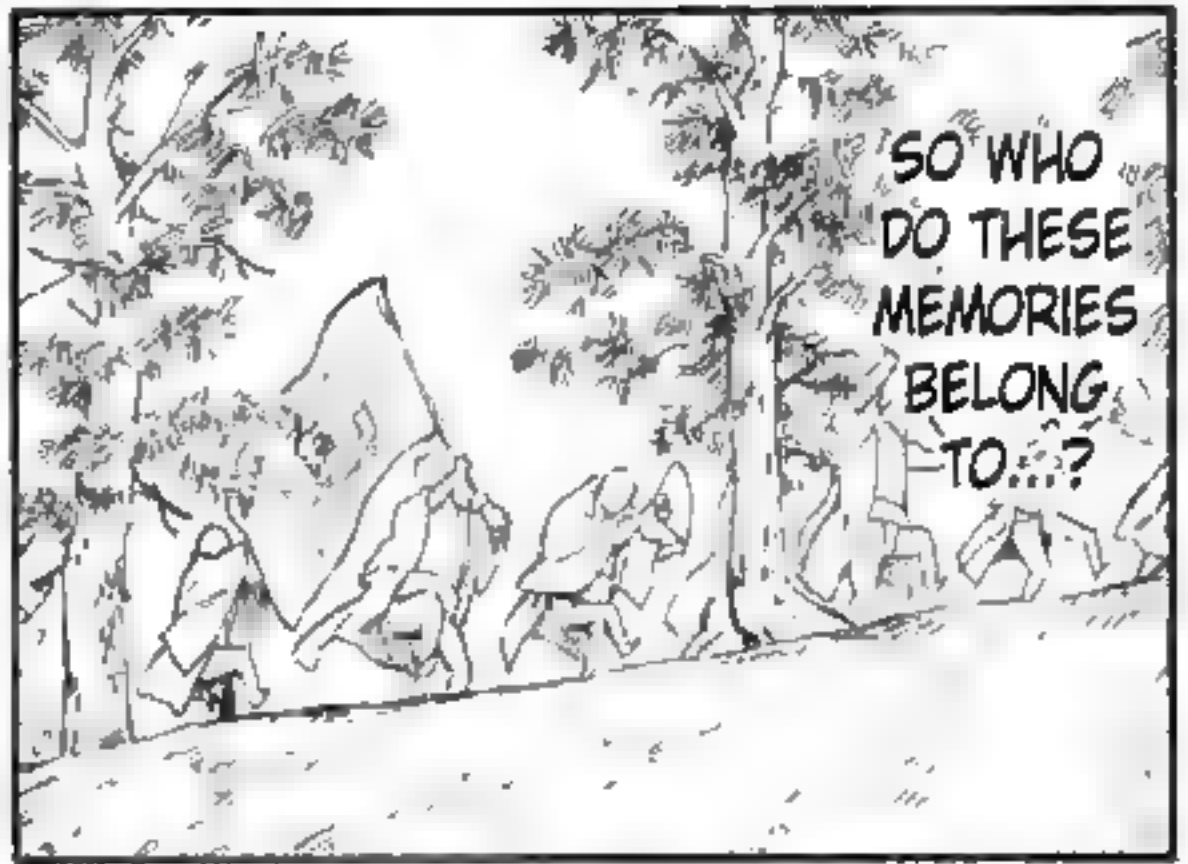


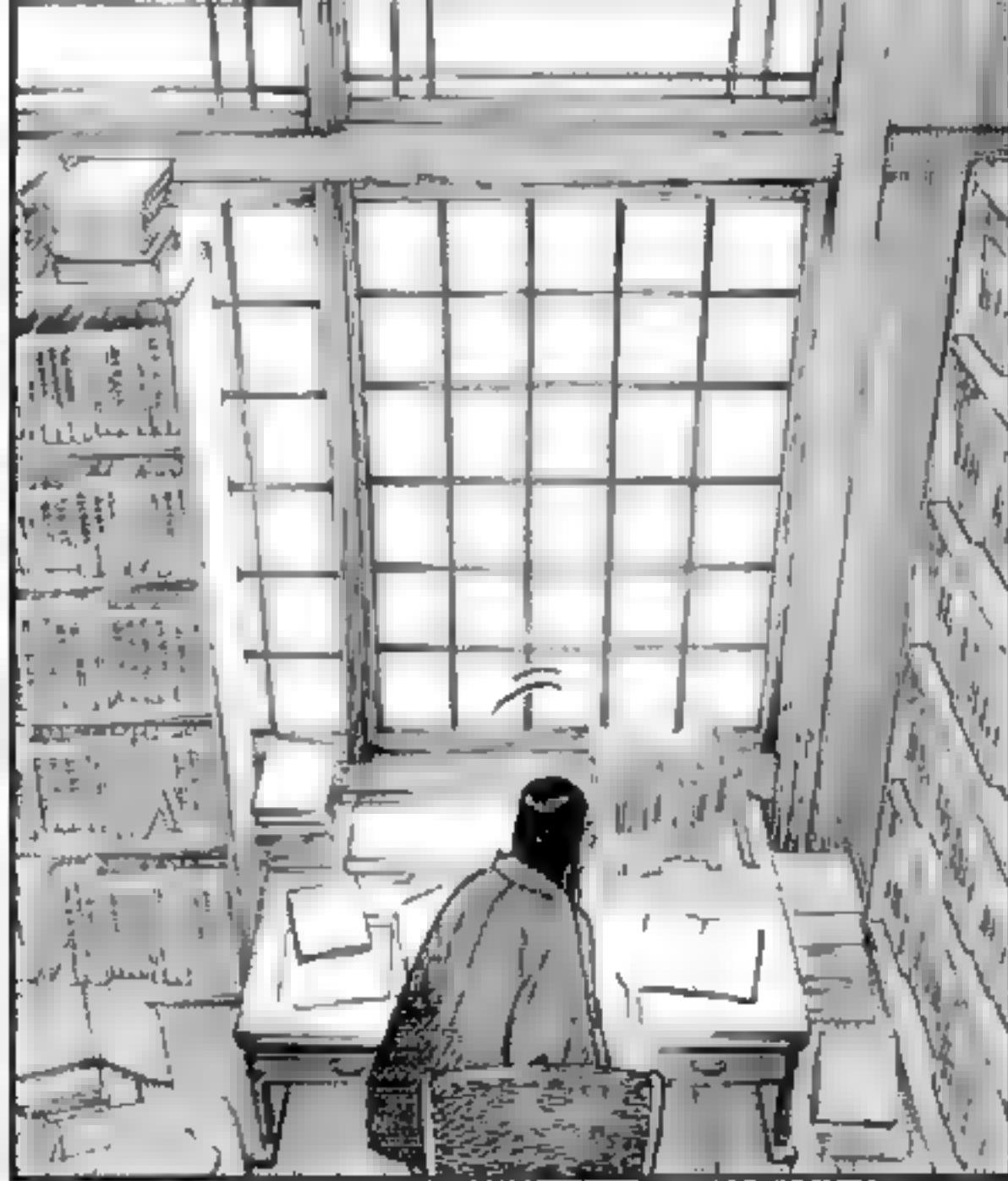
I'M NOT A HALF-WIT...

I'M NOT A HALF-WIT!!









HITOTSU-
MATSU...



CHIBA
PREFEC-
TURE...

KUJU-
KURI
BEACH...



CRASH

CRASH

CRASH

CRASH

CRASH



CRASH

I FINALLY MADE
A FRIEND.
A FRIEND WHO
SHOWED ME
GENUINE KINDNESS.

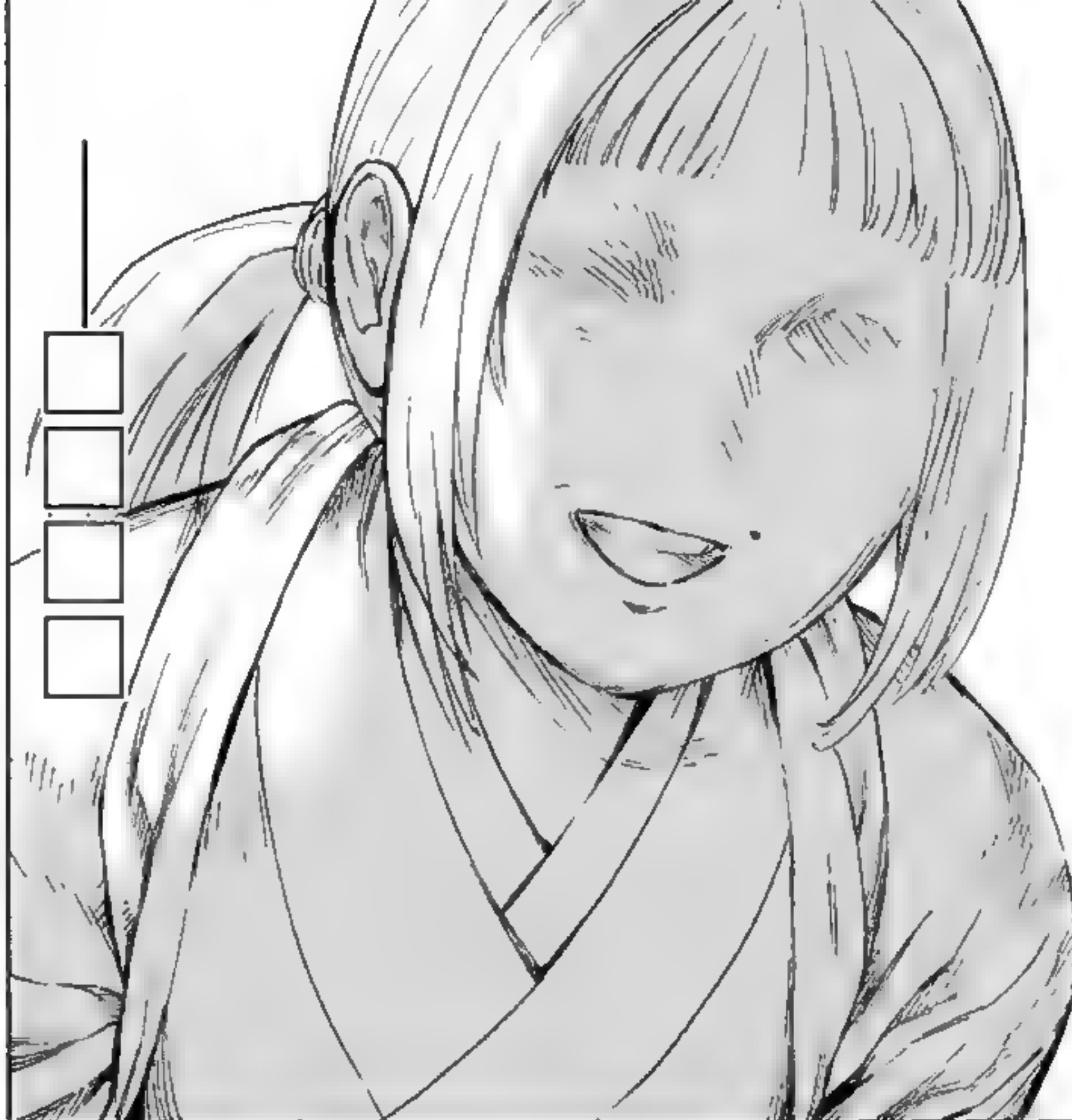
THREE YEARS
AFTER I WAS
SENT TO WORK
AT THE SAKE
SHOP...

WHAT WAS
HER NAME?

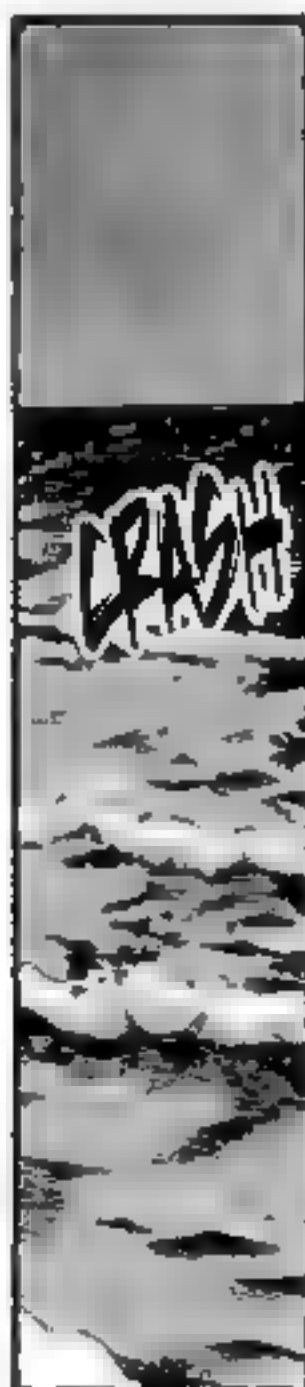


EVERYONE ELSE
PITIED ME
OR RIDICULED ME,
BUT SHE WAS
LIKE A SISTER.
WE WERE
INSEPARABLE.





WHAT
WAS
THAT
GIRL'S
NAME!?





rustle

rustle



IS THIS
THE WORK
OF FATE?

FATE
IS TOO
CRUEL...



WHY DID
HE CHOOSE
HER INSTEAD
OF ME?



HER
NAME...

gasp

WHAT
WAS HER
NAME?

AND WHY
AM I
SUDDENLY
SO
ANGRY?

gasp



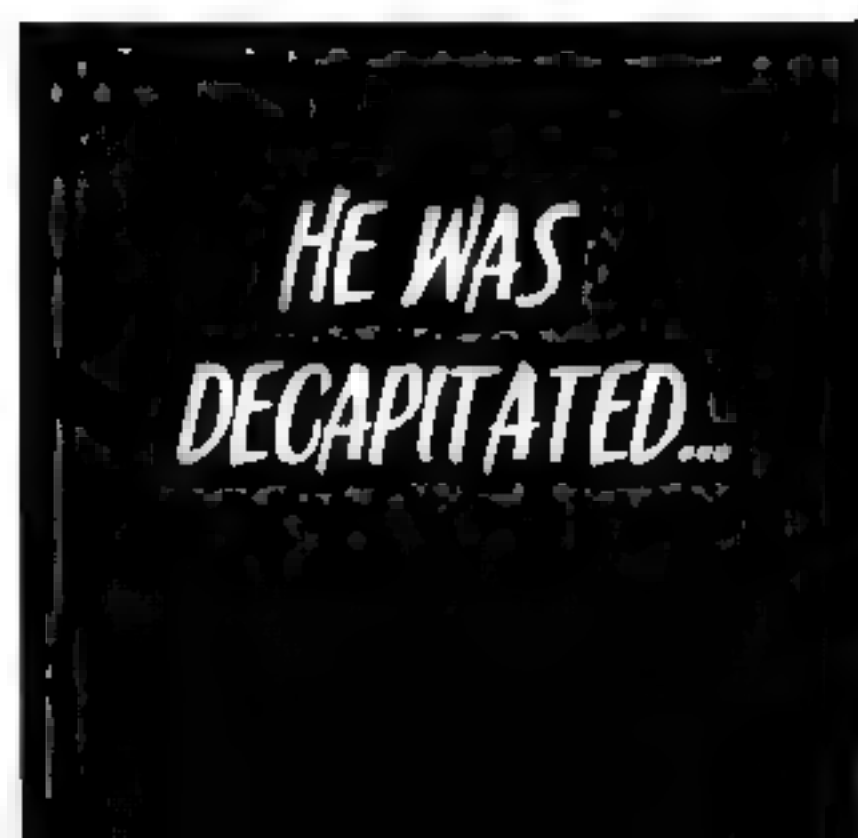
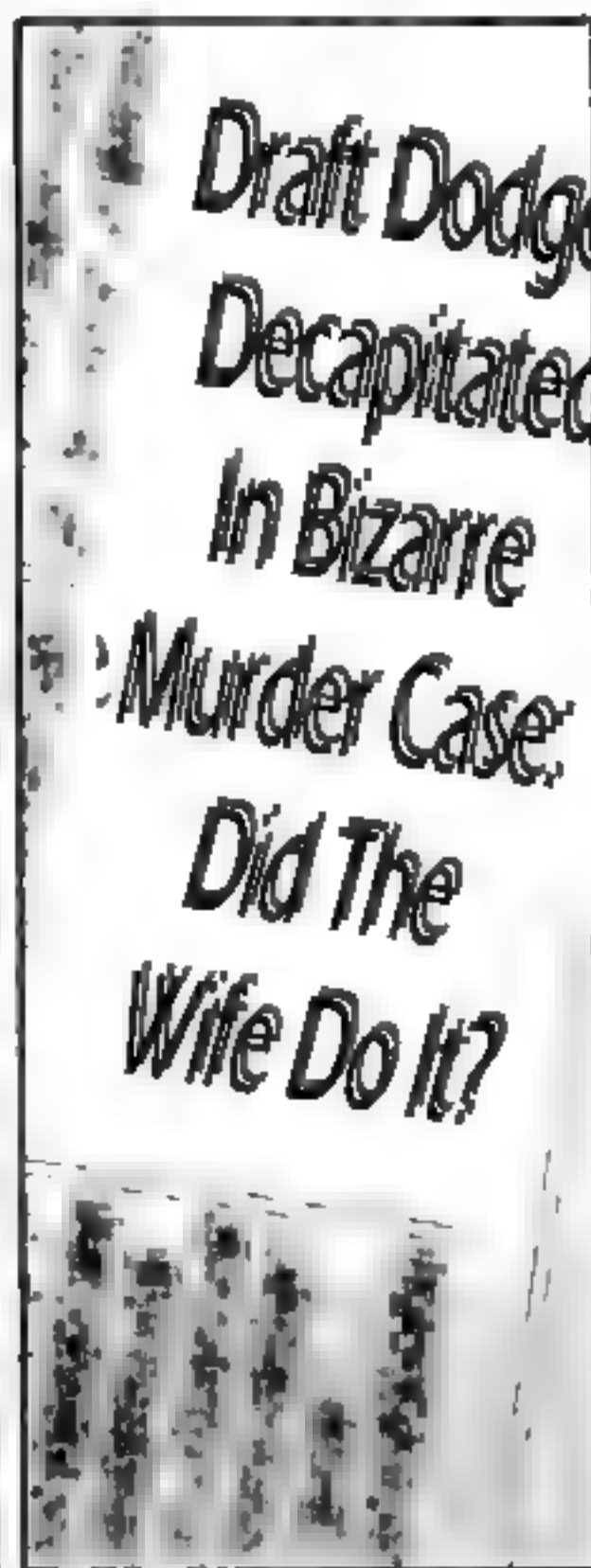
I'M
ANGRY...

SO
ANGRY...

I COULD
KILL HER...

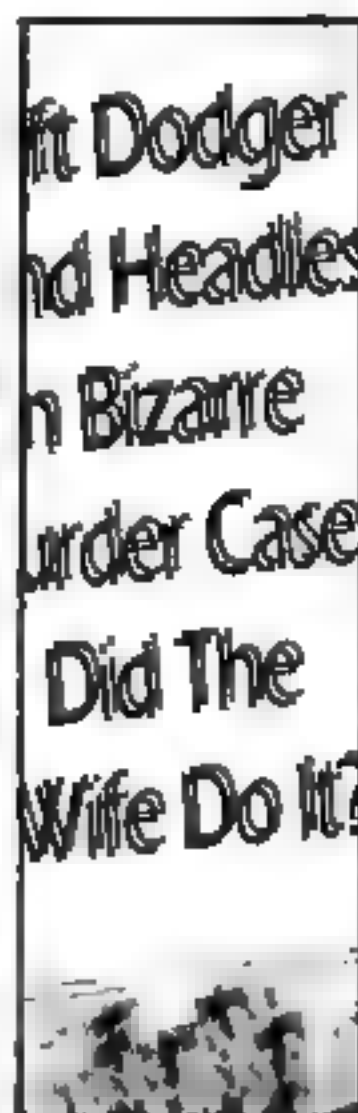
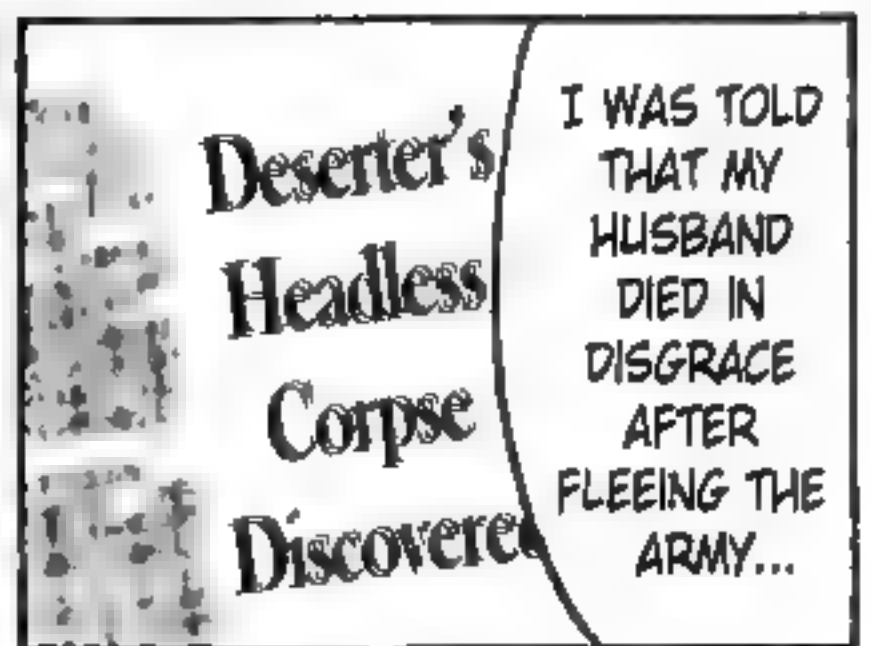


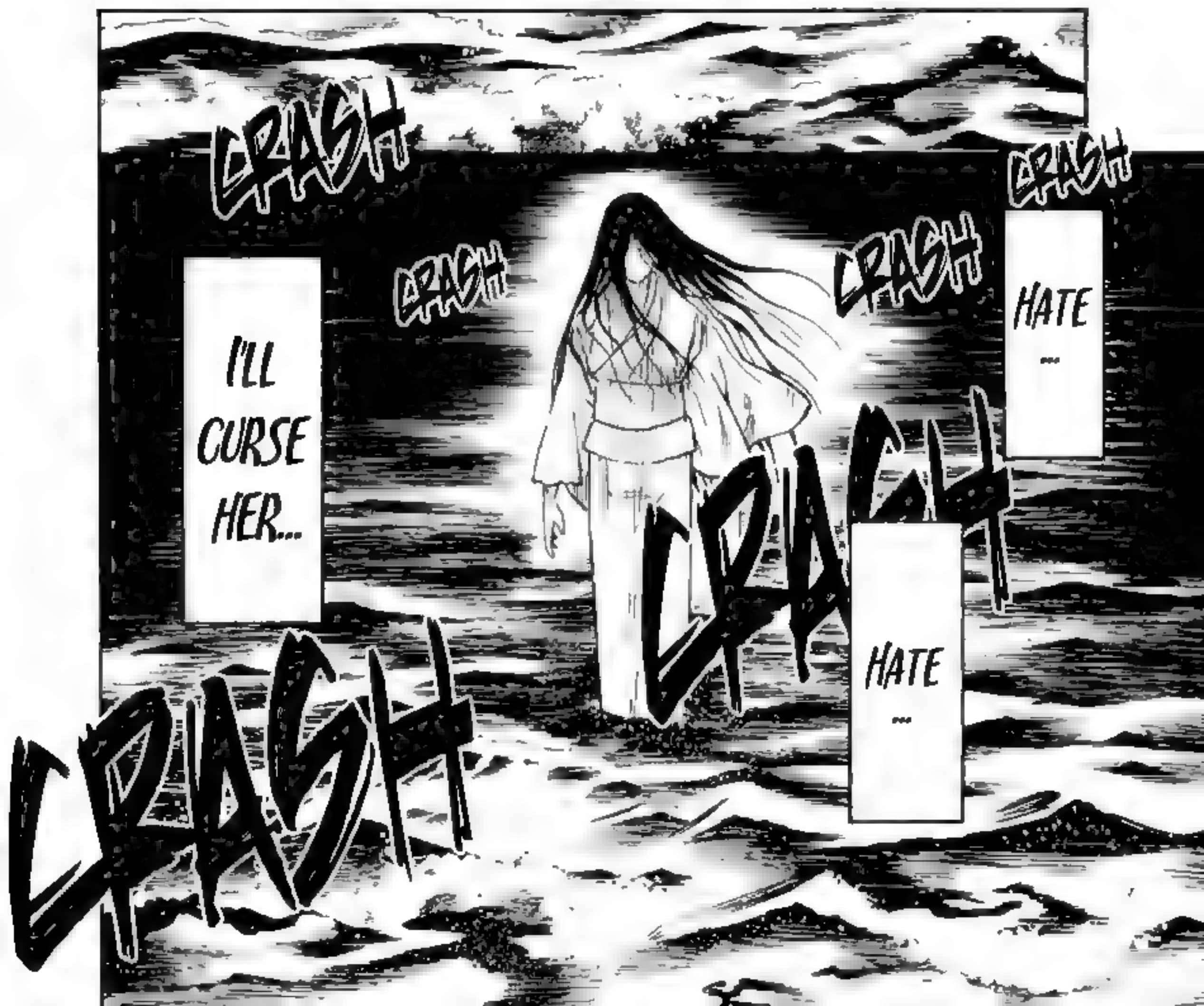
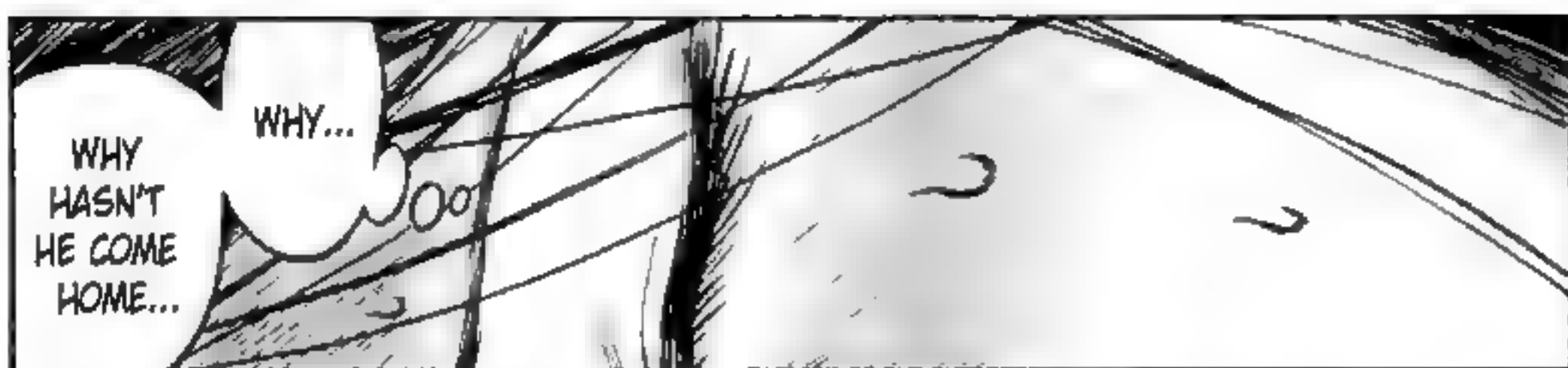
WHO WAS
SHE?





Headless Corpse Identified As Satta Nobuyoshi







WHO
WAS
SHE
...?

WHAT
WAS HER
NAME...?

I'LL CURSE
THAT
WOMAN...

I'LL CURSE
HER...



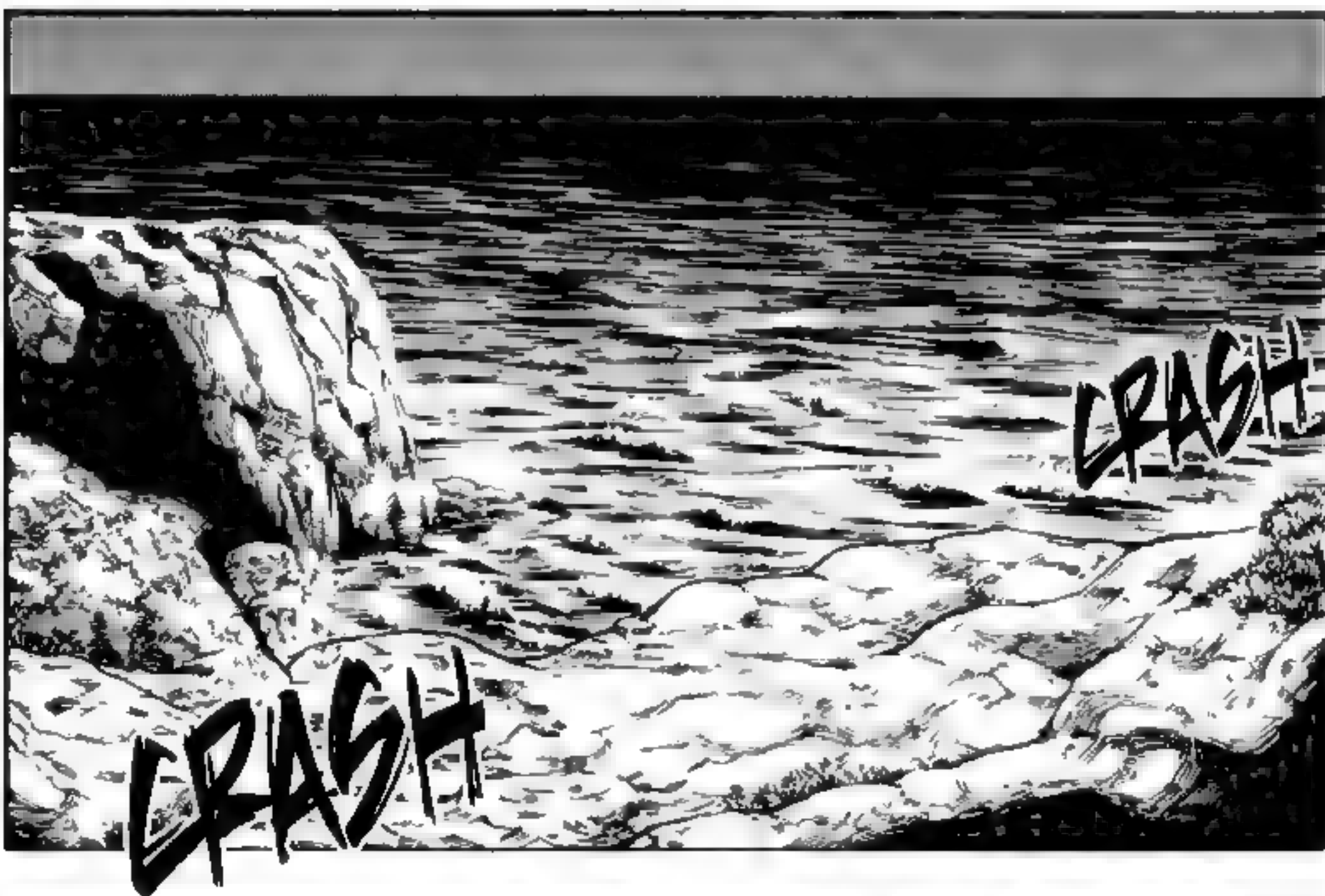
THAT'S...

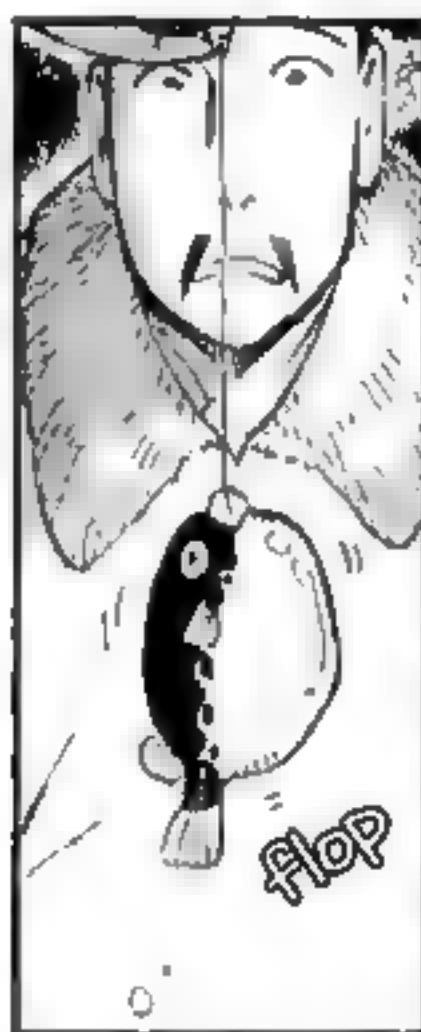
oo

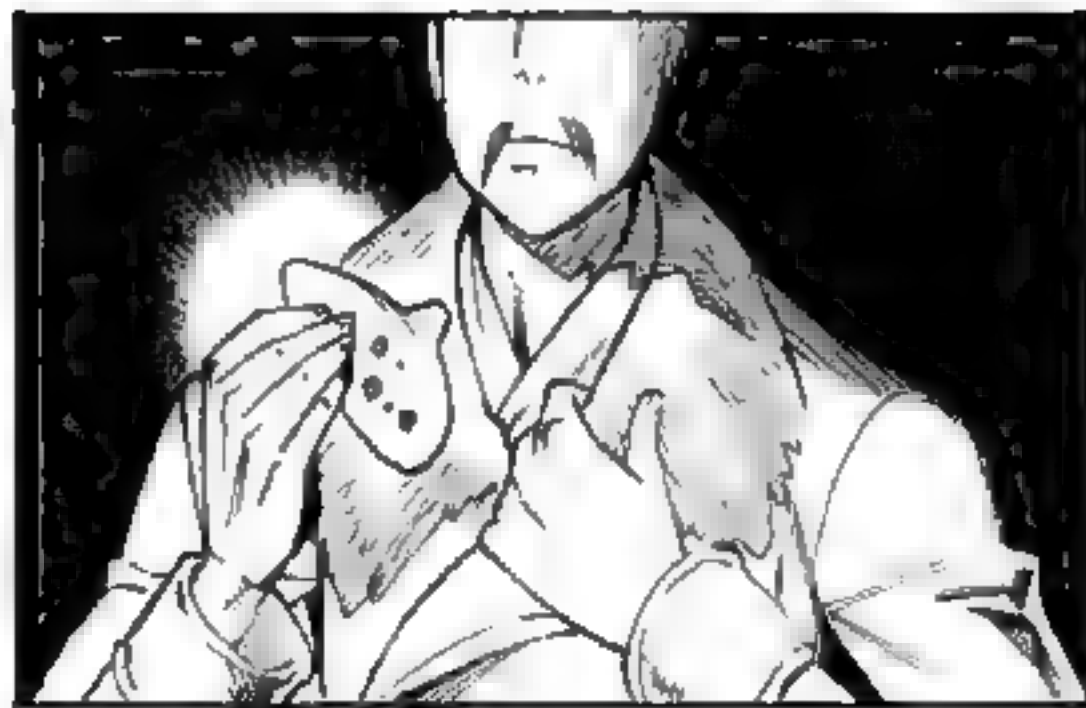


A
SKELE-
TON...

A
SKELE-
TON
WITH A
GOLDEN
SKULL...













YOU MUST BE A DRUNK-ARD.

GOING FISHING IN SUCH COLD WEATHER?

CRASH



MISTER, DO YOU HAVE A MATCH?

OH!



YOU'RE SOAKING WET, AND IT'S FREEZING!

HEY, LADY, ISN'T IT KIND OF LATE IN THE YEAR TO DO MOURNING RITES?



THE COLD DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

NOTE

She's performing an "ohakamairi" (grave visit). Normally, people visit their family grave site at least once a year to offer flowers, burn incense and clean the gravestone. Usually, this is done during Obon festival (August). If someone died at sea, the ritual might be performed on the beach.









TODAY IS
THE ANNI-
VERSARY
OF MY
HUSBAND'S
DEATH.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
KINDNESS.



WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE
SEEN A
GHOST.



GULP

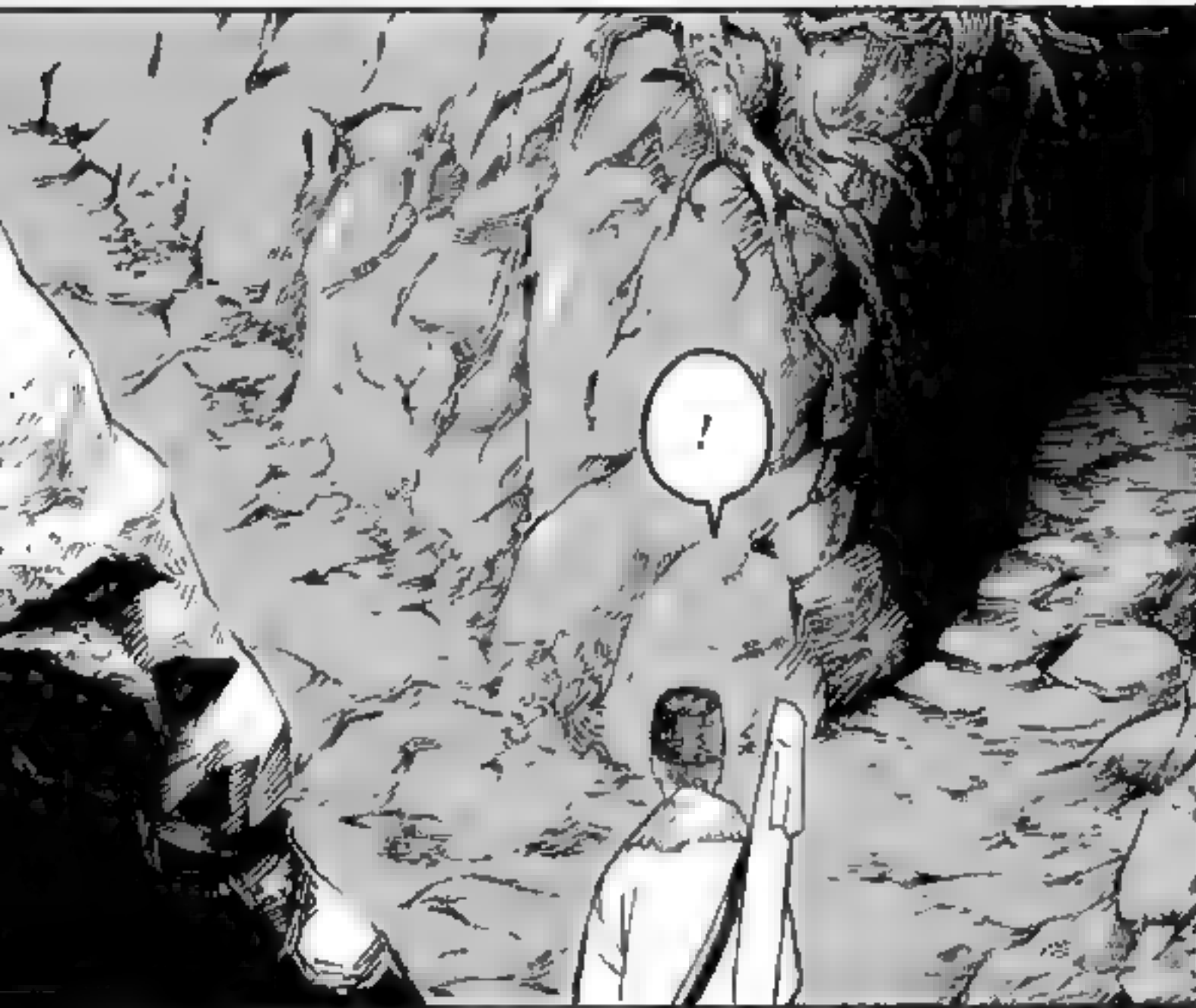


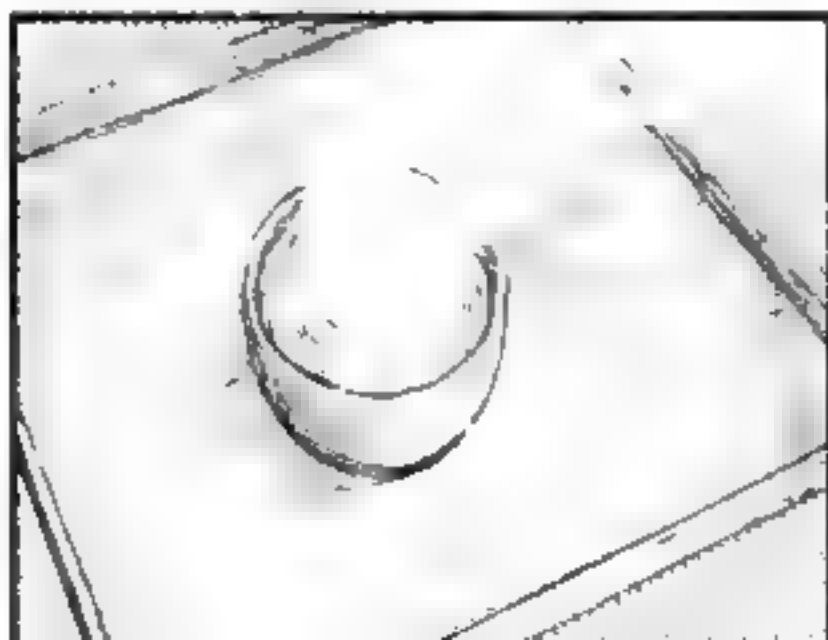
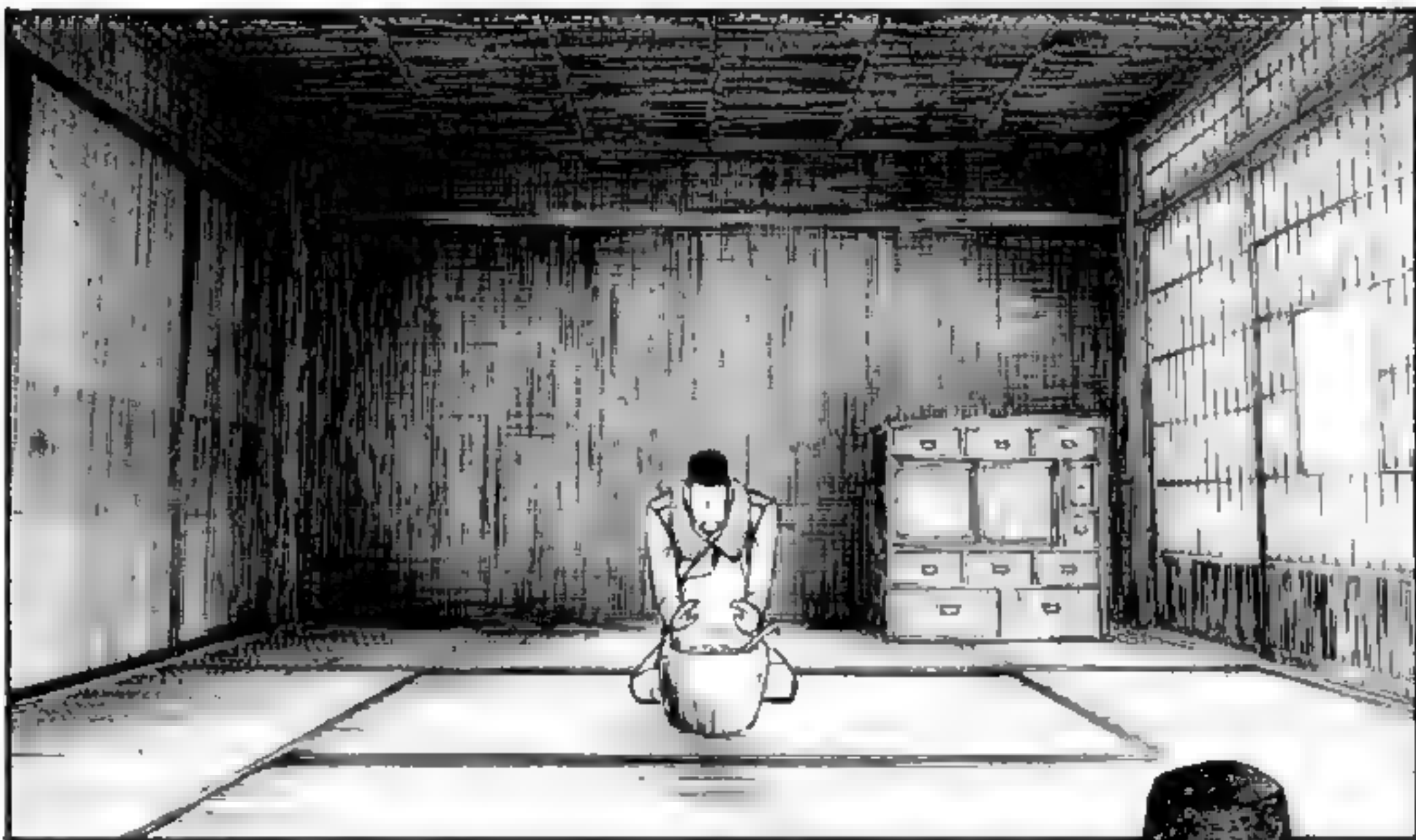
I MUST
HAVE A
FEVER...

YEAH
...

I'LL MAKE
YOU SOME
HOT TEA.

IF
YOU LIKE,
YOU'RE
WELCOME
TO STOP BY
MY HOUSE.







YOU DON'T
WANT TO
CATCH
A COLD,
DO YOU?



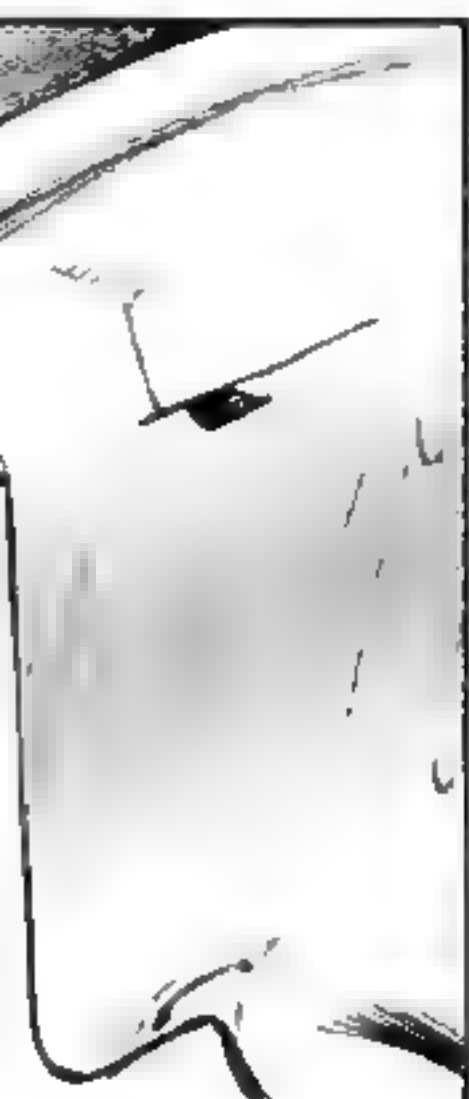
IT'S
JUST
SAKE
MIXED
WITH
EGG.
IT WILL
WARM
YOU
RIGHT
UP.



I'M SLEEPY
AS IT IS...

OH,
YOU'RE
TOO
KIND!

BUT YOU
DON'T NEED
TO DO ALL
THAT...



sip



BLOW

BLOW



BUT WITH-
OUT YOU,
I COULDN'T
HAVE LIT
THE INCENSE
FOR MY
HUSBAND'S
GRAVE.

MY
HUSBAND
WOULD BE
GRATEFUL,
TOO.
SO PLEASE
STAY.

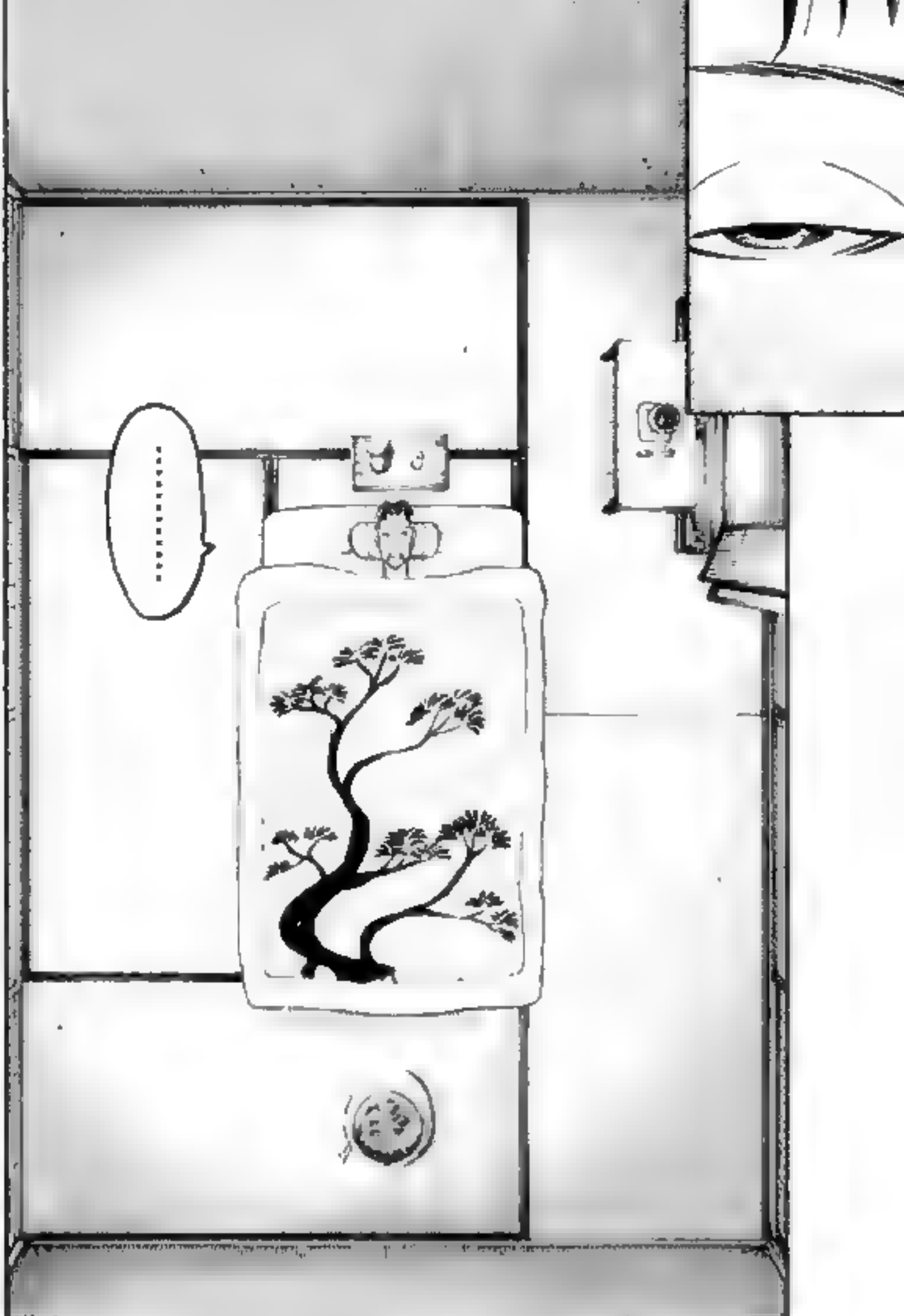


OH NO, I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
IMPOSE
ON YOU!

THIS
IS MORE
THAN
ENOUGH!



OH MY, YOU'RE
ALL FLUSHED...
ARE YOU SICK?
I'LL PREPARE
A ROOM FOR
YOU TO SLEEP.



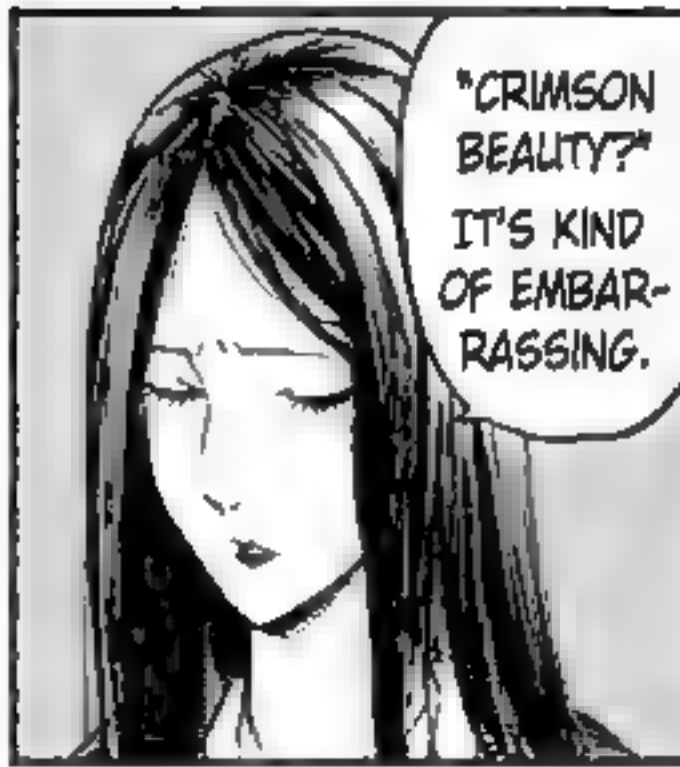
NOTE A butsudan is an ornate wooden cabinet where families will keep images of Buddha, photos of deceased family members, and tablets bearing the names of the deceased.





NOTE

"Akemi" means "crimson beauty."











THE VILLAGE
ISN'T THERE
ANYMORE...

IT WAS
ABANDONED
A LONG
TIME AGO.



I WAS
BORN IN A
SMALL
MOUNTAIN
VILLAGE IN
SHINANO,
ON MOUNT
TOKKOZAN.

Sign: "Kamoda Liquors"



I'D JUST
RETURNED
FROM VISITING
THEM THE
DAY BEFORE...



THE
DAY
BEFORE
WHAT?



WHEN I WAS
THIRTEEN, I WAS
SENT TO WORK AS
AN APPRENTICE IN
A SHOP, BUT I WAS
ONLY ALLOWED TO
WORK IN THE BACK.
I VISITED MY FAMILY
ON HOLIDAYS.

鴨田酒造

鴨田酒造



I GREW
UP IN
THE TOWN
OF SHIO-
DAIRA.

MY FAMILY
WAS POOR,
AND OUR
LITTLE FARM-
HOUSE WAS
CROWDED...
IT WAS A
DIFFICULT
LIFE.



I WAS SEVEN-TEEN.

THERE WAS A FIRE.
MY WHOLE FAMILY PERISHED.



Chew



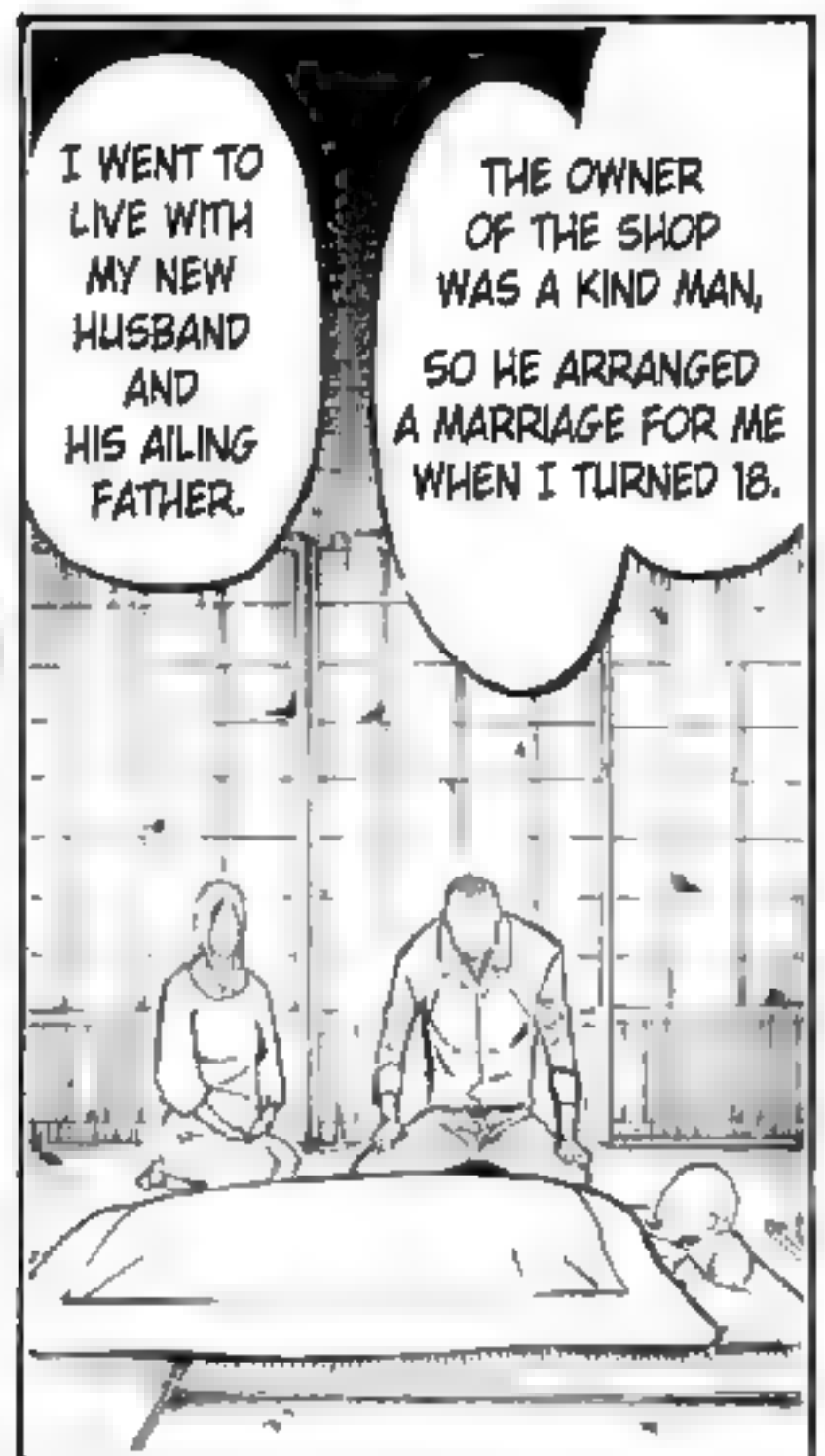
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL...
I SOON LEFT MY APPRENTICESHIP AND BEGAN MY LIFE AS A WOMAN.



IT'S LATE...
I SHOULD GO HOME...



BUT I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO ENJOY MARRIED LIFE FOR A WEEK.



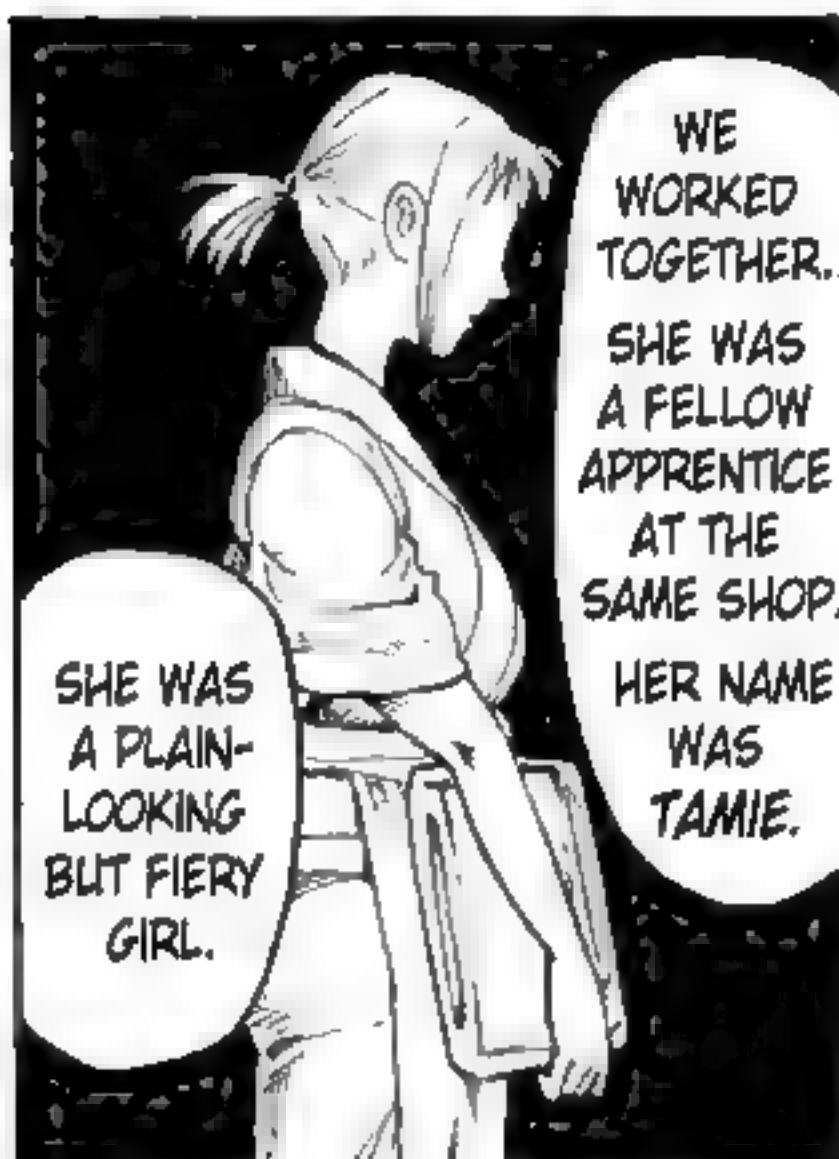
I WENT TO LIVE WITH MY NEW HUSBAND AND HIS AILING FATHER.

THE OWNER OF THE SHOP WAS A KIND MAN, SO HE ARRANGED A MARRIAGE FOR ME WHEN I TURNED 18.



W-WHY WAS THAT?

BUT PART OF ME WANTS TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER...



SHE WAS
A PLAIN-
LOOKING
BUT FIERY
GIRL.

WE
WORKED
TOGETHER...
SHE WAS
A FELLOW
APPRENTICE
AT THE
SAME SHOP.
HER NAME
WAS
TAMIE.



BECAUSE
OF THAT
WOMAN.

SHE
ALWAYS
HATED
ME.



HE
JUST
RAN
OFF!?



OH
...

HE WAS
ALSO
FLEEING
THE
DRAFT.



MY HUSBAND
LEFT ME
AND RAN OFF
WITH HER.



YES...
BUT WE
HAD A
FALLING
OUT.

WERE
THE TWO
OF YOU
FRIENDS
...?

NOTE By 1943, WWII was starting to go badly for Japan so the army increased draft rates. Attempting to avoid the draft was a crime punishable by death, and it was considered the worst possible crime. Even the families of draft dodgers would be ostracized and attacked.



WHO KNOWS...
MAYBE I'D
HAVE FELT
DIFFERENTLY
IF HE'D RUN
OFF WITH ME
INSTEAD OF
WITH THAT
WOMAN.



I HOPED
THAT HE
WOULD
DIE A
MISERABLE,
PATHETIC
DEATH.



I
CONTINUED
TO CARE FOR
MY SICKLY
FATHER-
IN-LAW...

BUT I
COULDN'T
BEAR
THE
SHAME.

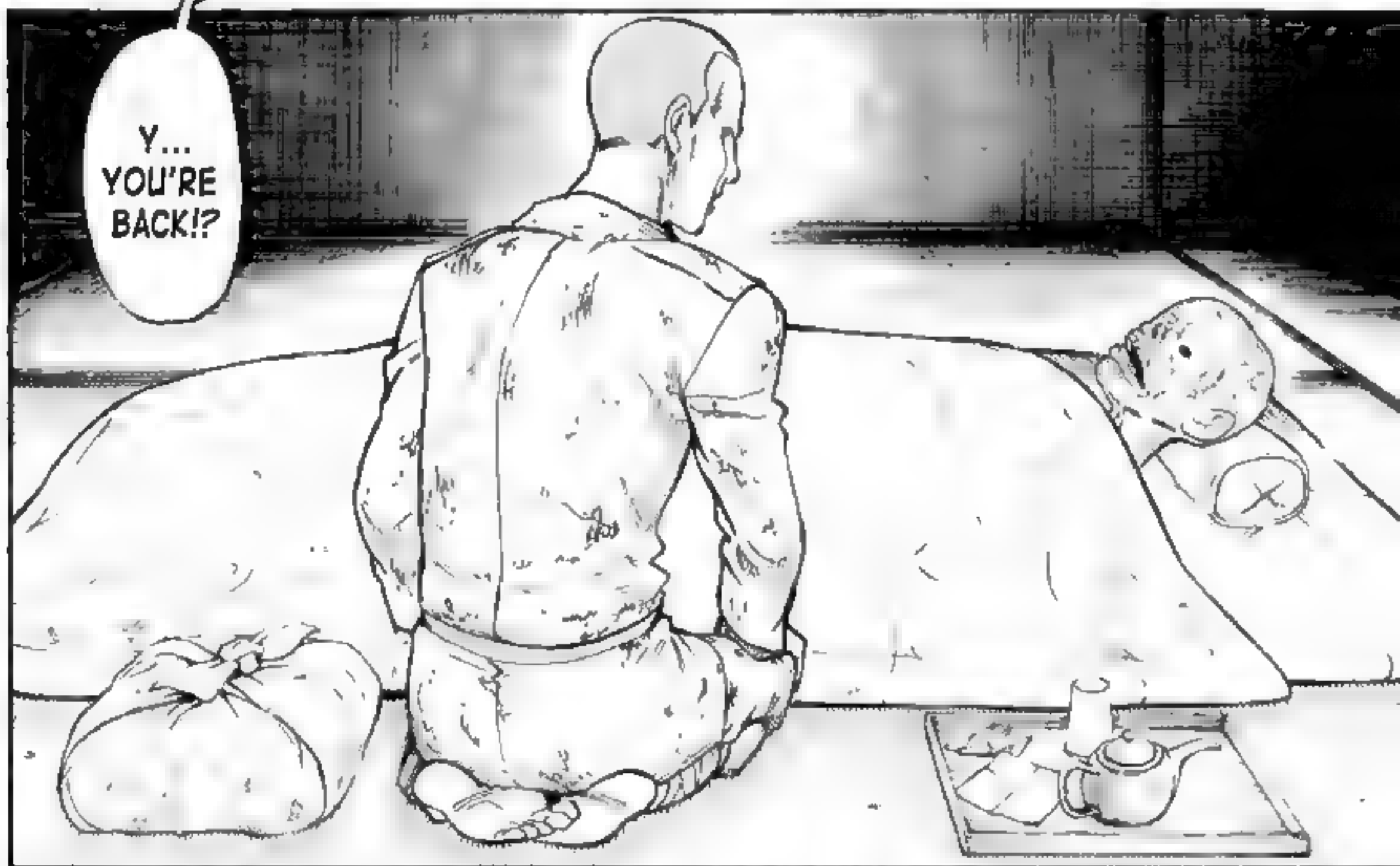
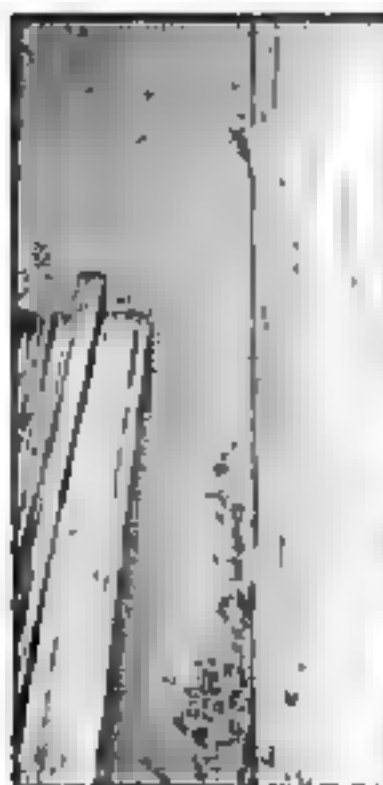
I WAS
QUESTIONED
BY THE
MILITARY
POLICE, AND
OSTRACIZED
BY MY
VILLAGE.

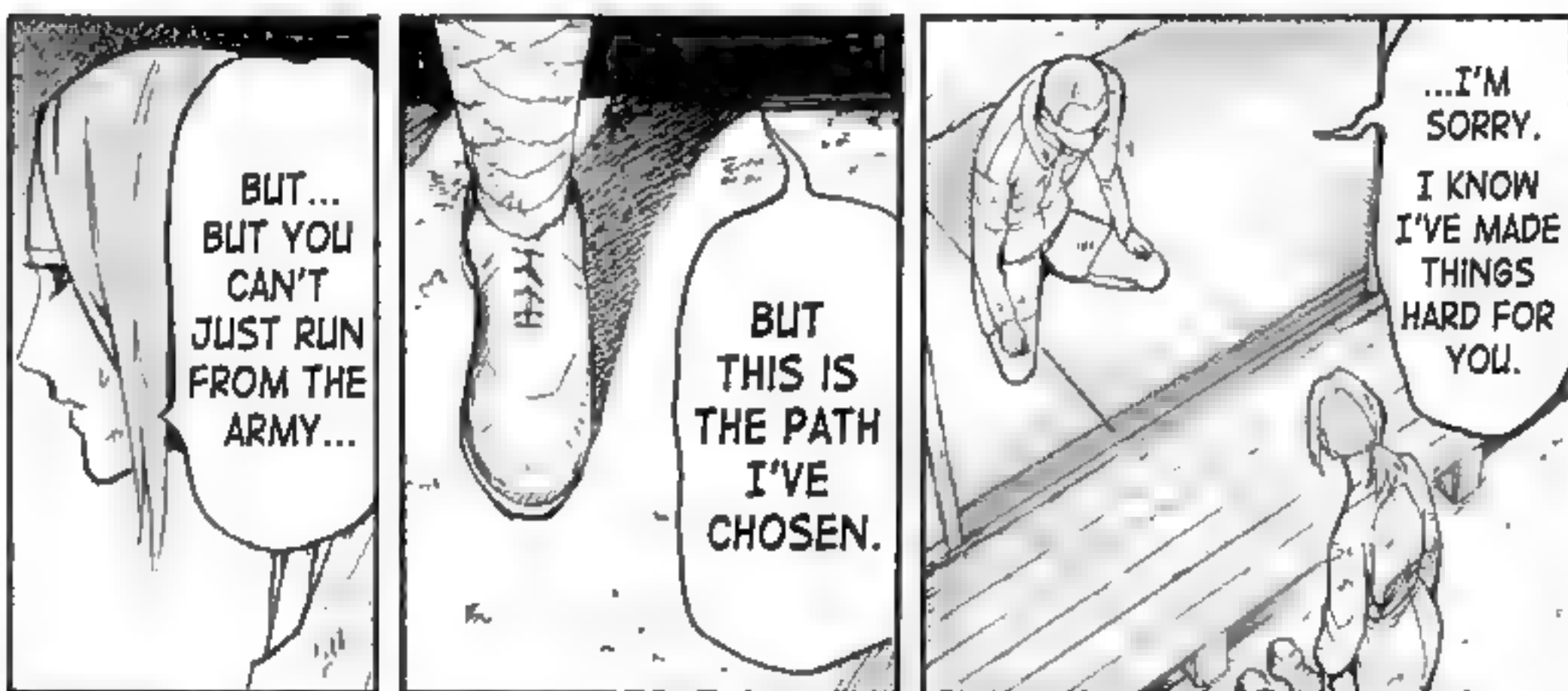


BUT THEN,
A WEEK
AFTER
HE'D DIS-
APPEARED...

MY
HUSBAND
CAME
BACK.









...I HAVE
TO GO.



PLEASE
TAKE CARE OF
MY FATHER.
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
PERSON
I CAN
TRUST.



CREAK



HE
MUST HAVE
REGRETTED
HIS DECISION
TO RUN.



"SOMETHING HE
NEEDED TO DO?"

TOO BAD.
THE WAR WASN'T
GOING TO STOP
FOR ONE MAN.

IT'S NO
COINCI-
DENCE THAT
SHE DISAP-
PEARED AT
THE SAME
TIME...



OBTVIOUSLY,
HE JUST
WANTED TO
BE WITH
TAMIE.



UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULDN'T HAVE A FUNERAL.

THINGS GOT WORSE AFTER THAT, THOUGH... MY FATHER-IN-LAW DIED FIVE DAYS LATER.



I'D NEVER DARE TO GO AGAINST THE ARMY...

AND I'D NEVER HAVE LEFT A WOMAN LIKE YOU.



OH? HOW SWEET.

NOTE

Most funerals in Japan are performed by Buddhist monks. Shinto funerals do exist, but due to political reasons they were suppressed for a long time. So, they're somewhat rare now.



I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT SHINTO FUNERALS EXISTED...

A SHINTO PRIEST?

YES.



FORTUNATELY, A KIND PRIEST OFFERED TO SECRETLY PERFORM THE FUNERAL RITES.



WELL...

IN SHINTO...



WHY?

UM...

GULP



DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SHINTO, ISANA-SAN?



YES, IT'S STRANGE, I KNOW.

BUT I HAD NO OTHER OPTIONS.



USUALLY,
IT'S SOME-
THING LIKE
A JEWEL,
A SWORD
OR A
MIRROR.

THE
ITEM ACTS
AS A
LINK TO A
CERTAIN
GOD.



I
SEE
...



EVERY
SHRINE WILL
HAVE AN
OBJECT OF
WORSHIP.

THAT
OBJECT IS
THE SHRINE'S
CONNECTION
TO THE
GODS.



CHUJZENJI
WOULD
KNOW MORE
ABOUT THIS
THAN I DO...



WHOA,
THAT'S
A SUDDEN
CHANGE
OF TOPIC...



UM...
WHY
DO YOU
ASK?

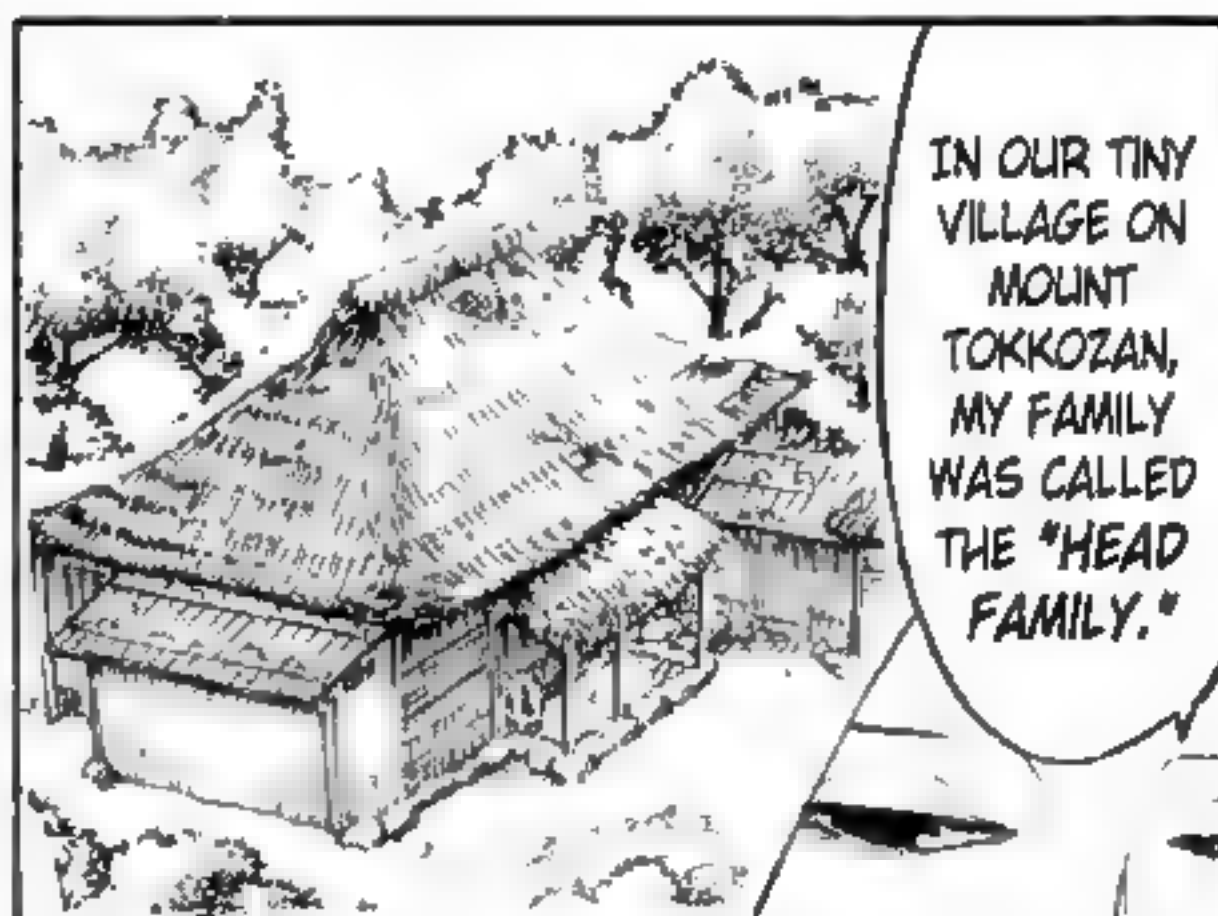


HAVE
YOU
EVER...

HAVE YOU
EVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
FACT THAT
THERE'S A
SKULL
BEHIND
EVERY
PERSON'S
FACE?



IT WASN'T
OUR SURNAME
OR THE NAME
OF A BUSINESS,
SO AT THE
TIME I DIDN'T
KNOW WHY
PEOPLE
CALLED US
THAT.



IN OUR TINY
VILLAGE ON
MOUNT
TOKKOZAN,
MY FAMILY
WAS CALLED
THE "HEAD
FAMILY."



WE
SPOKE
TO THE
GODS.

YOU KNOW,
A LONG TIME
AGO, THIS
FAMILY WAS
IMPORTANT.

BUT SOME-
TIMES MY
FATHER
WOULD
GET
DRUNK...



MINA-
KATA-
SAMA...

PLEASE
ACCEPT
THIS.



AND ACTUALLY...
PEOPLE CAME TO
WORSHIP AT OUR
HOME SHRINE
SEVERAL TIMES
A YEAR.



WHY?

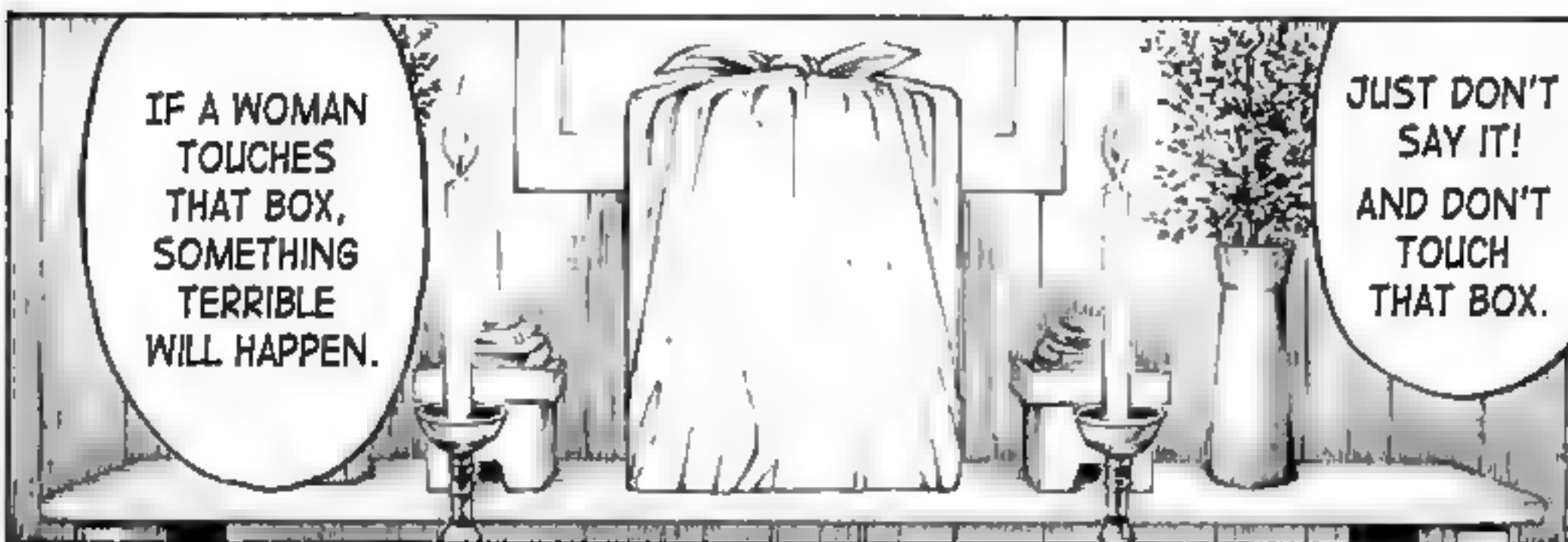


SHH!
YOU
MUSTN'T
SAY THAT
NAME!



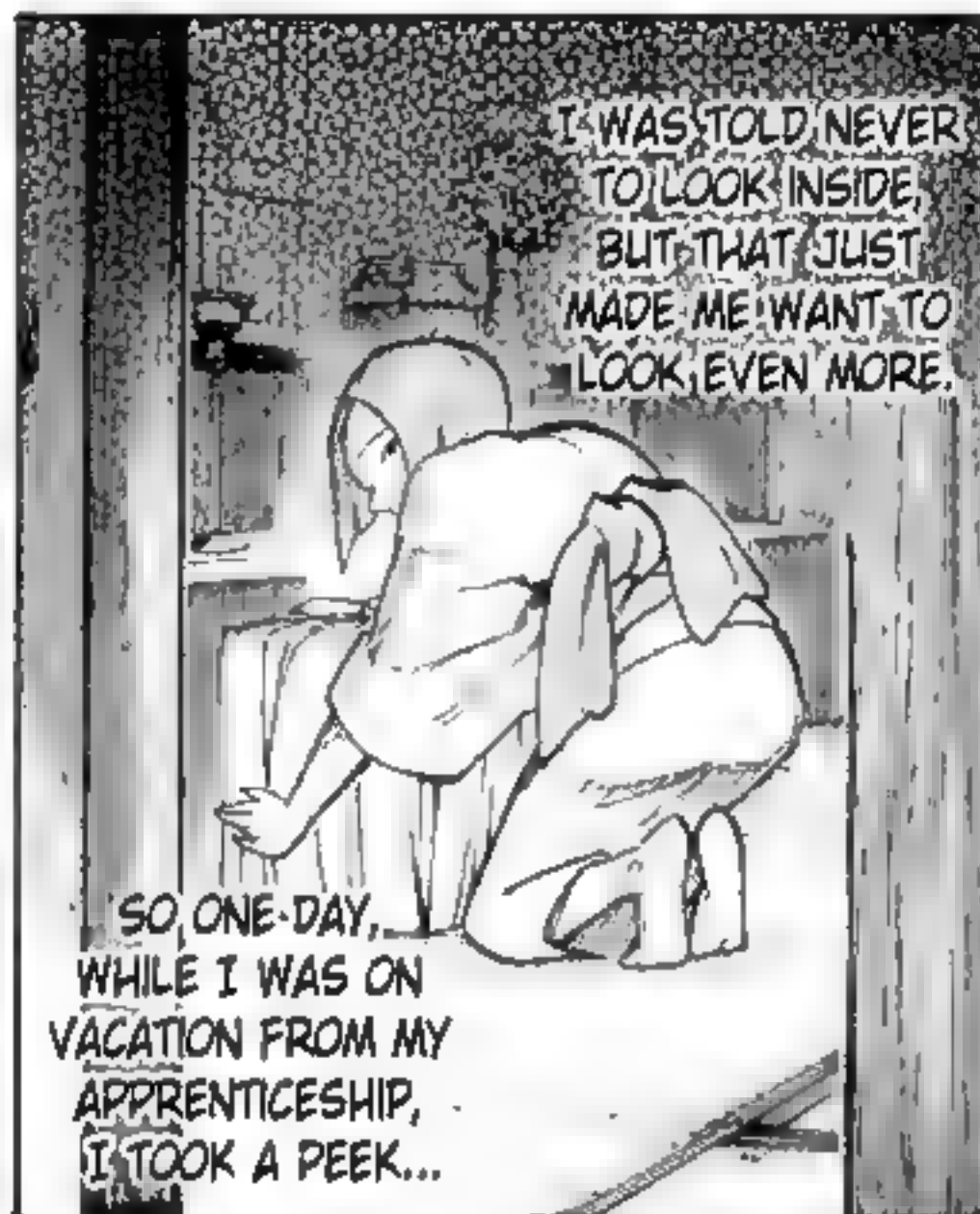
GRAND-
MA,

WHO'S
"MINA-
KATA-
SAMA?"



IF A WOMAN
TOUCHES
THAT BOX,
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE
WILL HAPPEN.

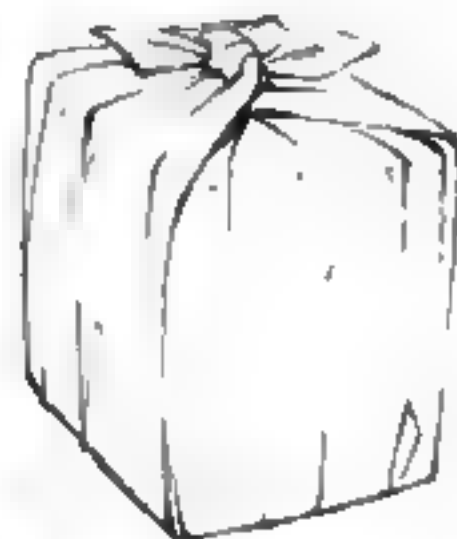
JUST DON'T
SAY IT!
AND DON'T
TOUCH
THAT BOX.



I WAS TOLD NEVER
TO LOOK INSIDE,
BUT THAT JUST
MADE ME WANT TO
LOOK EVEN MORE.

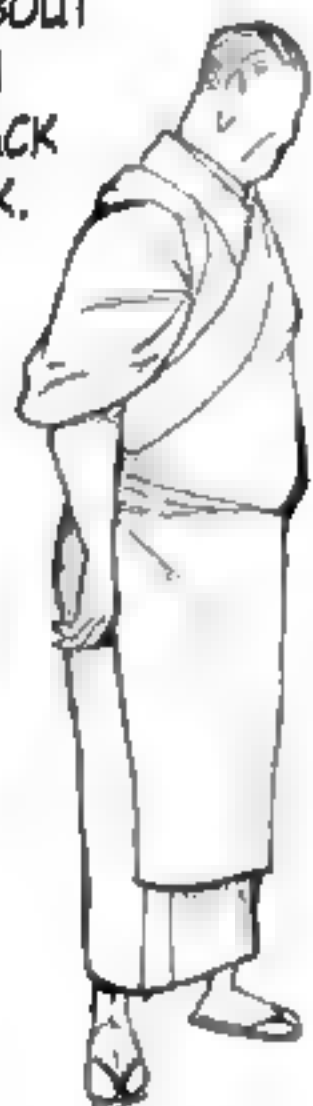
SO, ONE DAY,
WHILE I WAS ON
VACATION FROM MY
APPRENTICESHIP,
I TOOK A PEEK...

I GUESSED
THAT WE WERE
CALLED THE
"HEAD FAMILY"
BECAUSE OF
THE PAWLONIA
WOOD BOX THAT
MY FAMILY
SAFEGUARDED.





SO I TOLD
MY BOSS ABOUT
IT WHEN
I WENT BACK
TO WORK.



I COULDN'T
ASK MY PARENTS
ABOUT IT,
OF COURSE...



THERE WAS
A VERY LARGE
SKULL INSIDE.





NOTE It's actually pretty hard to destroy bone. An ordinary house fire isn't hot enough to burn bones, so crematoriums need special machinery to pulverize and incinerate them.





SUDDENLY
APPEARED
TO DO THE
FUNERALS FOR
THE REST OF
MY FAMILY.

THE SAME
PRIEST WHO'D
PERFORMED
MY FATHER-
IN-LAW'S
FUNERAL...

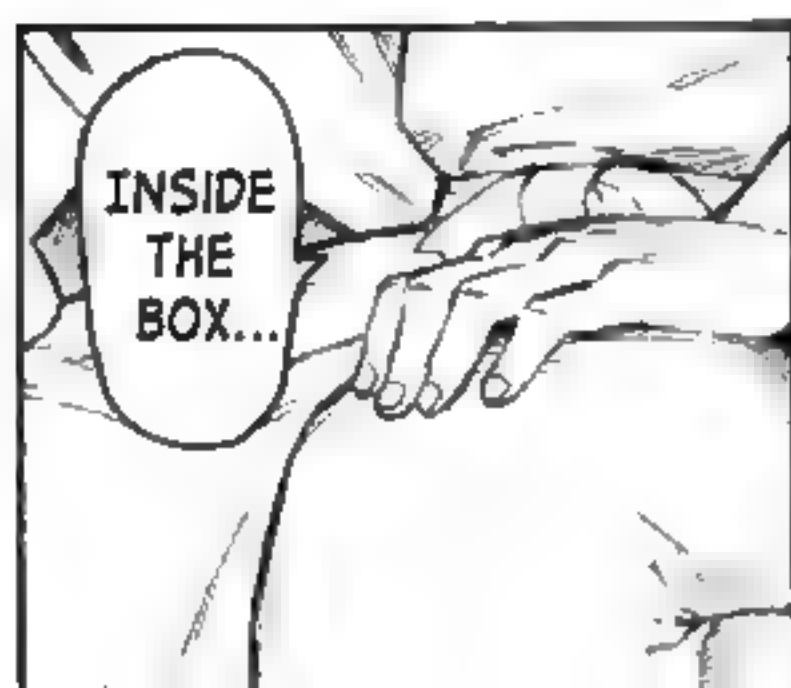


YOUR
FAMILY
HAD A BOX,
DIDN'T
THEY?
A VERY
SPECIAL
BOX...



WHAT
WAS IN
IT?

UM,
I GUESS
I COULD
LOOK
FOR IT...



INSIDE
THE
BOX...



IF THAT
BOX ISN'T
TREATED
WITH
UTMOST
RESPECT
...

MISFOR-
TUNE
WILL
RESULT.



A BOX...?
UM...



THERE'S
A
SKULL.

OH
MY.

OH
...

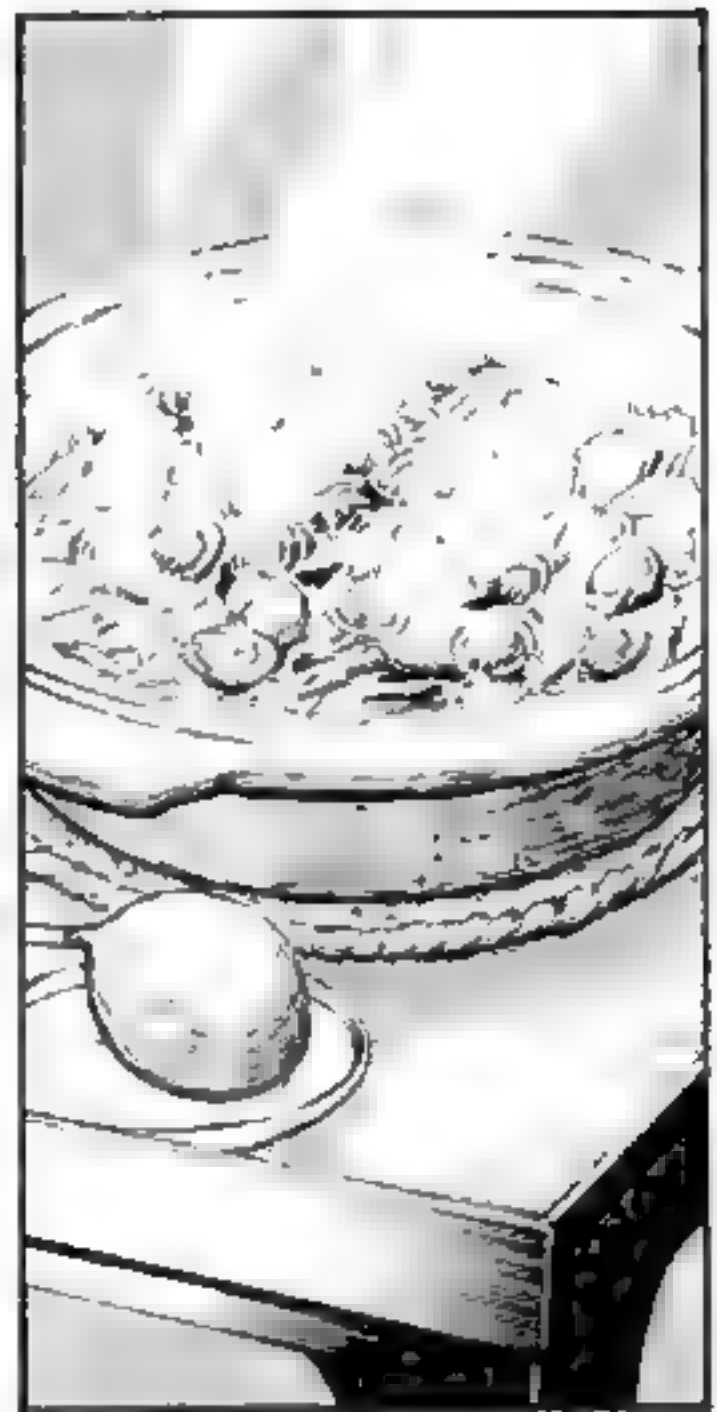
surprise

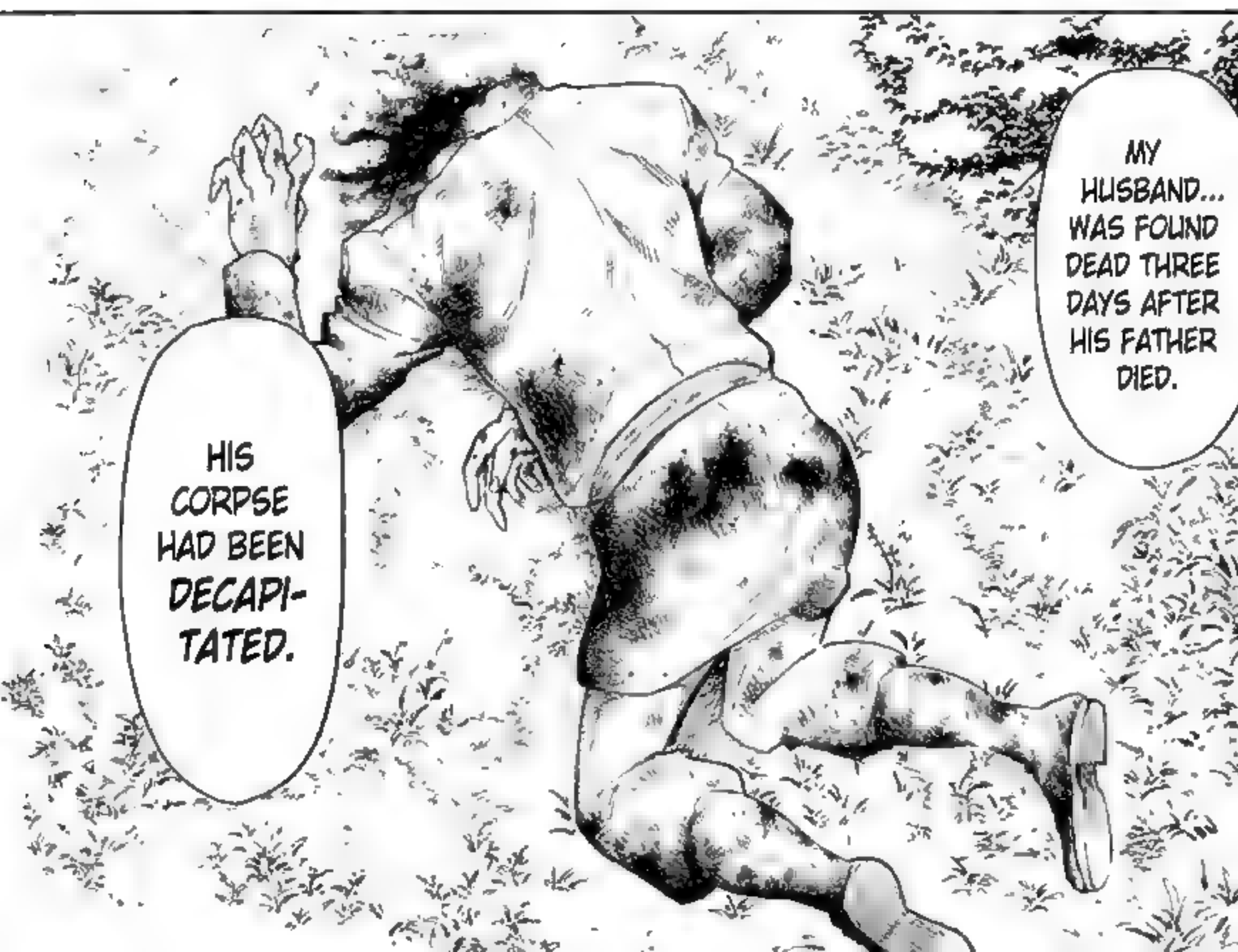
I LOOKED
THROUGH
THE
WRECKAGE
OF MY HOME,
BUT I
COULDN'T
FIND IT.



WHAT
HAP-
PENED
NEXT?

SO,
LIM
...







IT WAS
TAMIE!

HE WAS
MURD-
ERED...

AND
I KNOW
WHO
DID IT.



WHAT
...?



I'M
SORRY.

THERE WAS
A REASON
WHY SHE
CUT OFF
HIS HEAD...
BUT THIS IS
A GRUESOME
STORY...



WELL...

BUT... BUT
HOW COULD
SHE DO SUCH
A THING!?
AND WHY?



I GUESS
THAT WOULD
MAKE THE
BODY HARDER
TO IDENTIFY,
RIGHT?

THAT WOULD
SLOW THE POLICE
DOWN, RIGHT...?



ACCORDING
TO THE
POLICE,
HE WAS
DECAPITATED
AFTER
HE WAS
KILLED.



IT'S OKAY.
WHAT
WAS THE
REASON?



I HAD NO TROUBLE IDENTIFYING HIM. AFTER ALL, WE WERE MARRIED.

fu
fu
fu

um...



STARE

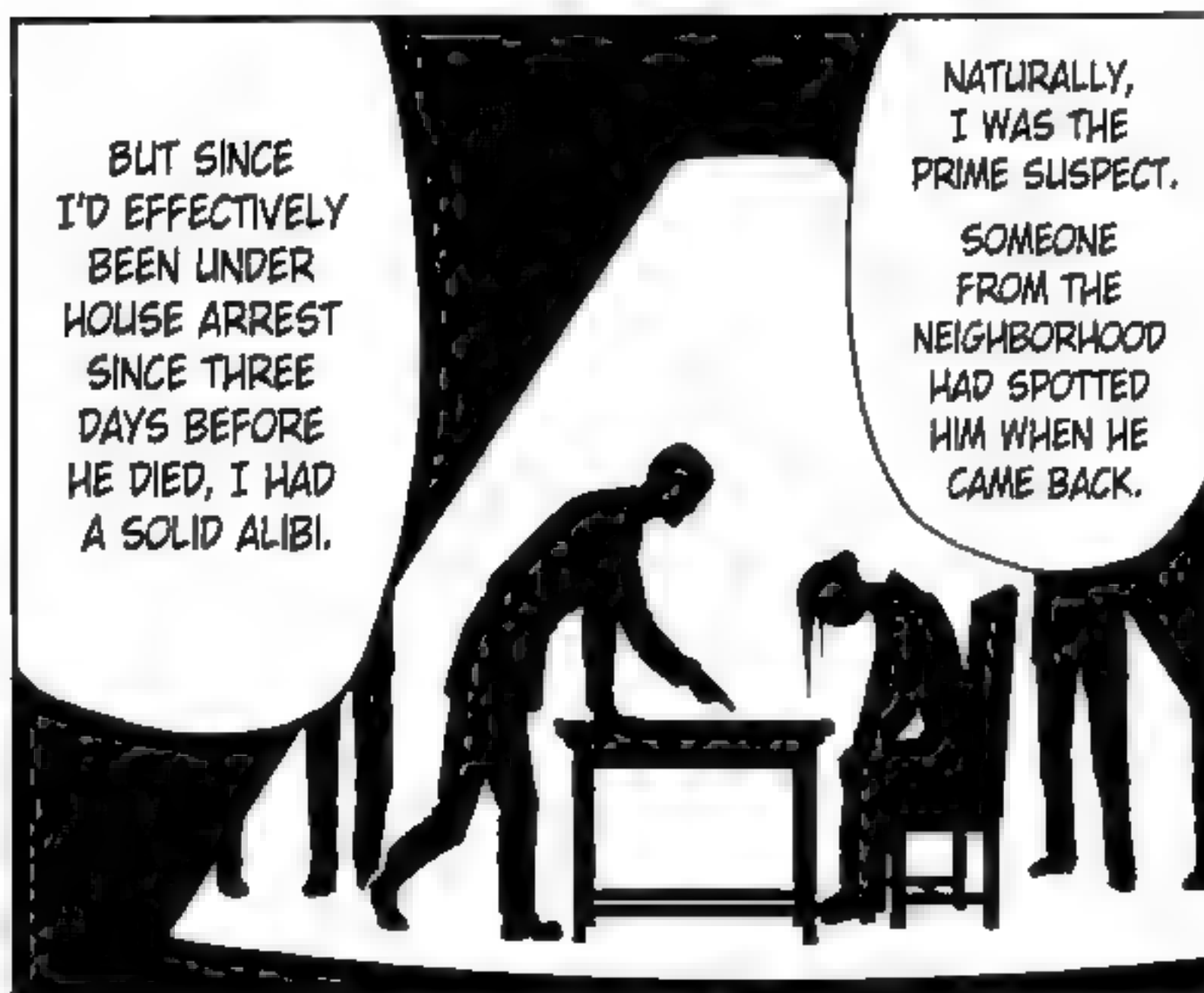


ALONG HIS INNER THIGH...

RIGHT HERE...



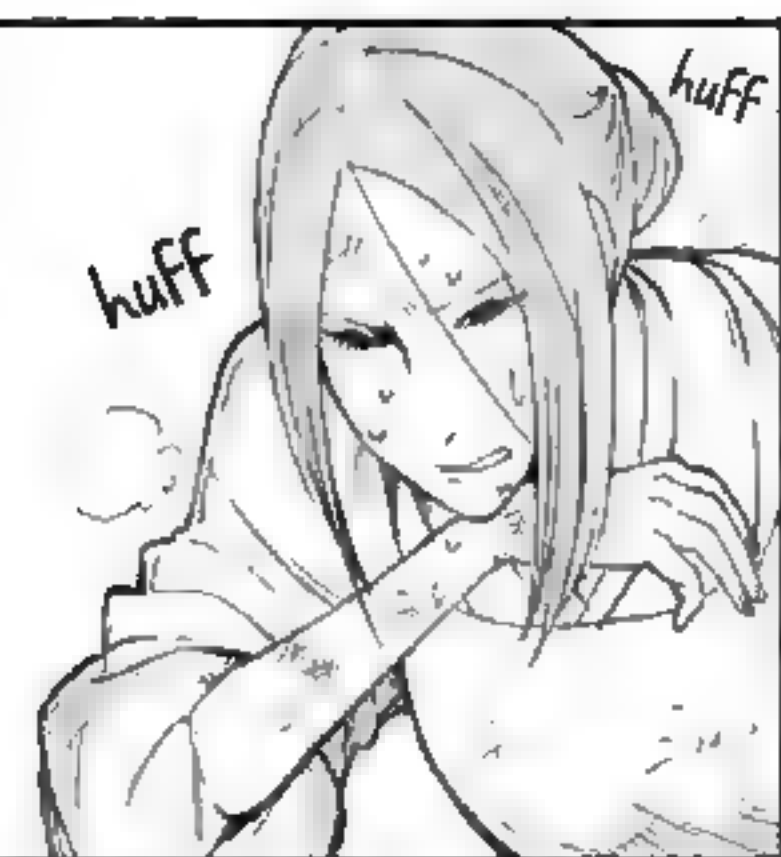
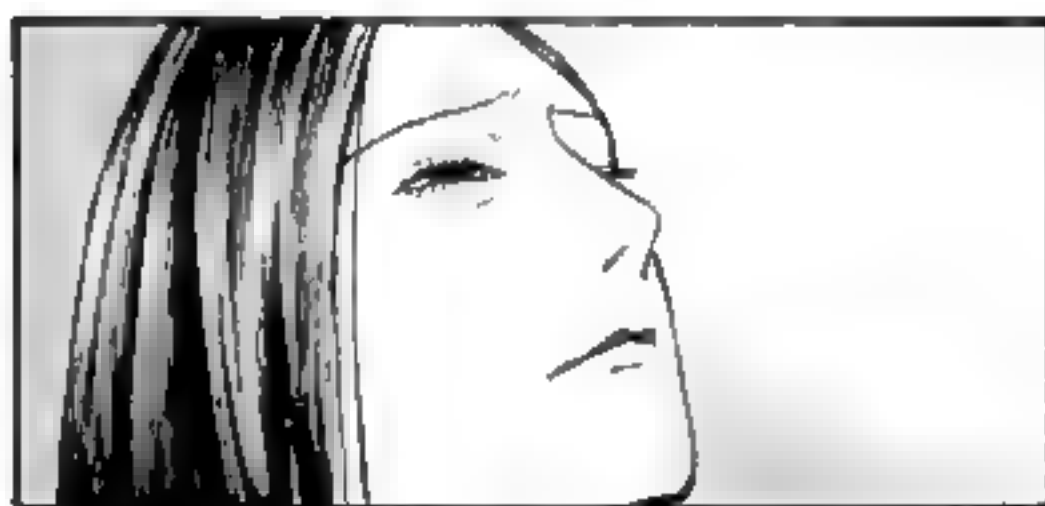
HE HAD SEVERAL LARGE, DISTINCTIVE SCARS.





I JUST
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...

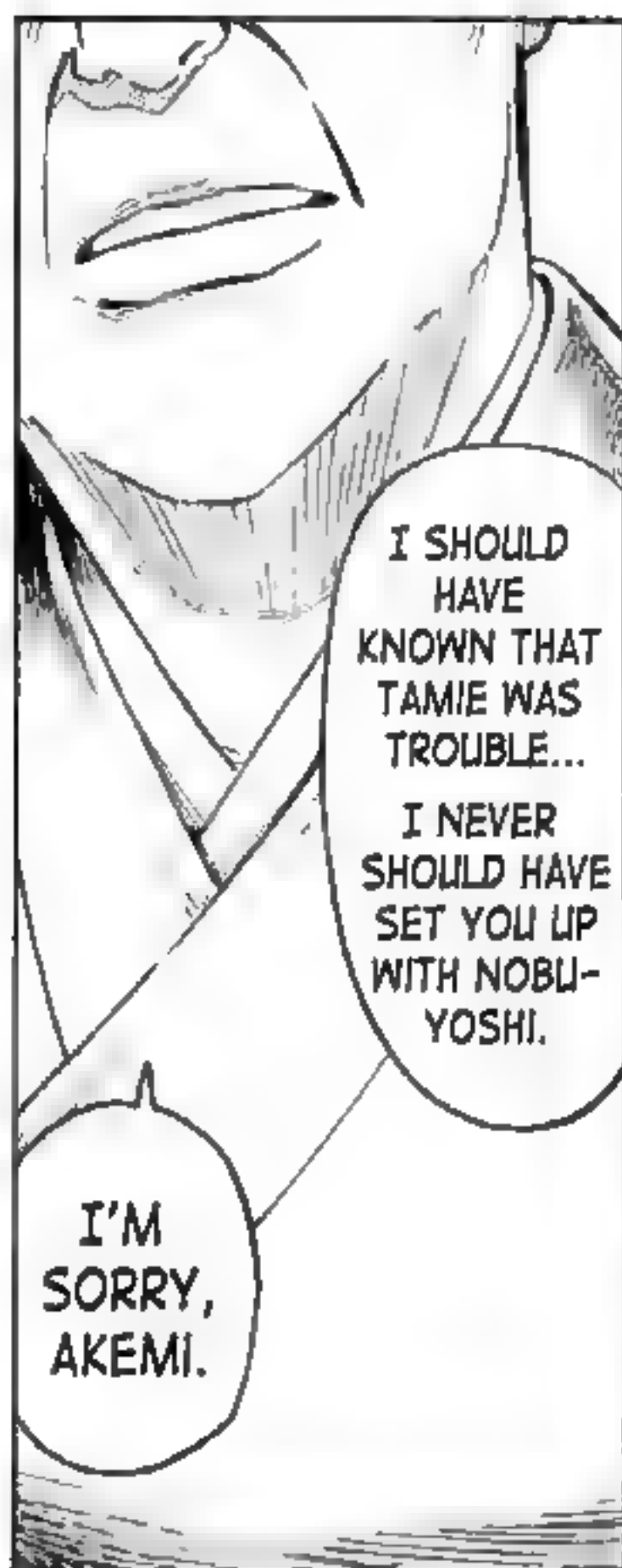
WHY...
WHY DID
NOBUYOSHI
CHOOSE HER?
WAS I LACKING
IN SOME WAY
AS A WIFE?



ANYWAY, A WARRANT WAS
ISSUED FOR TAMIE, AND
I WAS RELEASED.
BUT THAT DIDN'T CHANGE
THE FACT THAT I WAS
THE WIFE OF A TRAITOR...
AND NOW I HAD TO DEAL
WITH MY FATHER-IN-
LAW'S CORPSE.



...
AKEMI?





I HAD
NO IDEA
WHERE
TO GO.

I LEFT
THAT
NIGHT.



PERHAPS
I STILL
LOVED
HIM.



PER-
HAPS
...



I FELT
LOST IN
MY OWN
DESPAIR.



I WAS
LONELY,
I WAS
MISERABLE...

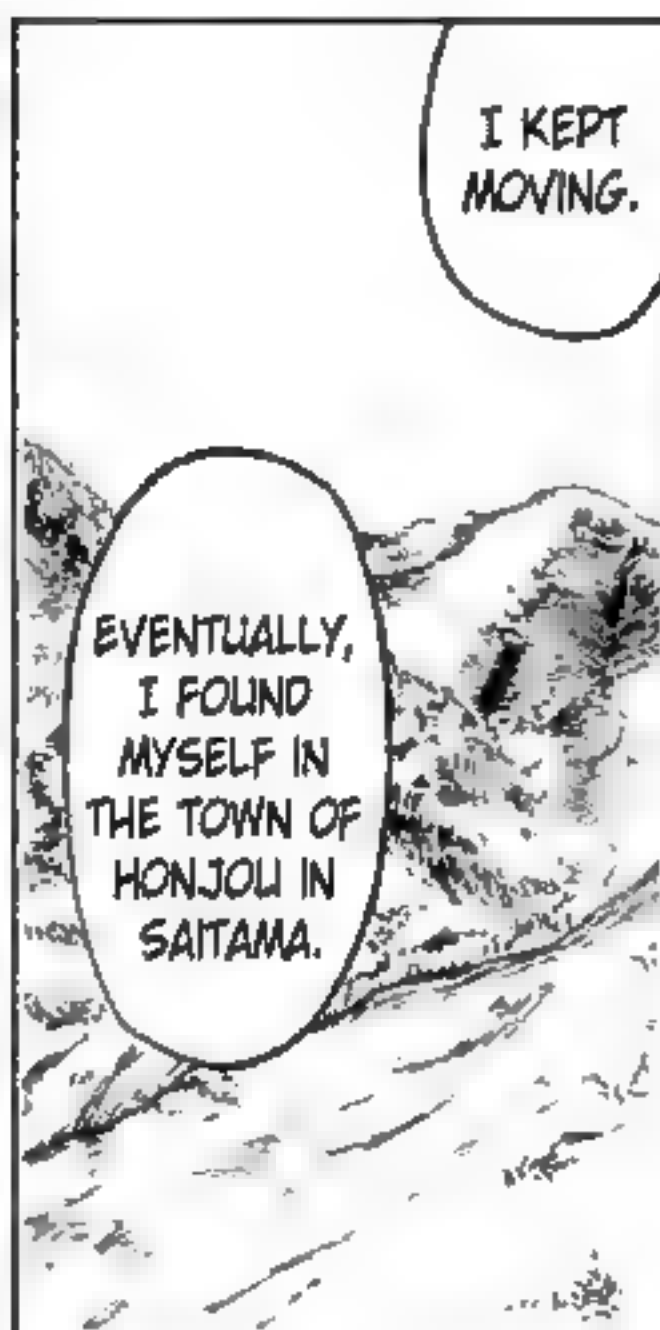
FIRST I WENT
TO UEDA, AND
THEN TO USUI...
I JUST
BLINDLY KEPT
MOVING.

I HAD NO
GOAL OR
DESTINATION
IN MIND.



AND
I WAS
WEARY
IN BOTH
BODY AND
SPIRIT.

I WAS
NEARLY
OUT OF
MONEY,



I KEPT
MOVING.

EVENTUALLY,
I FOUND
MYSELF IN
THE TOWN OF
HONJOU IN
SAITAMA.



TO
DIE.

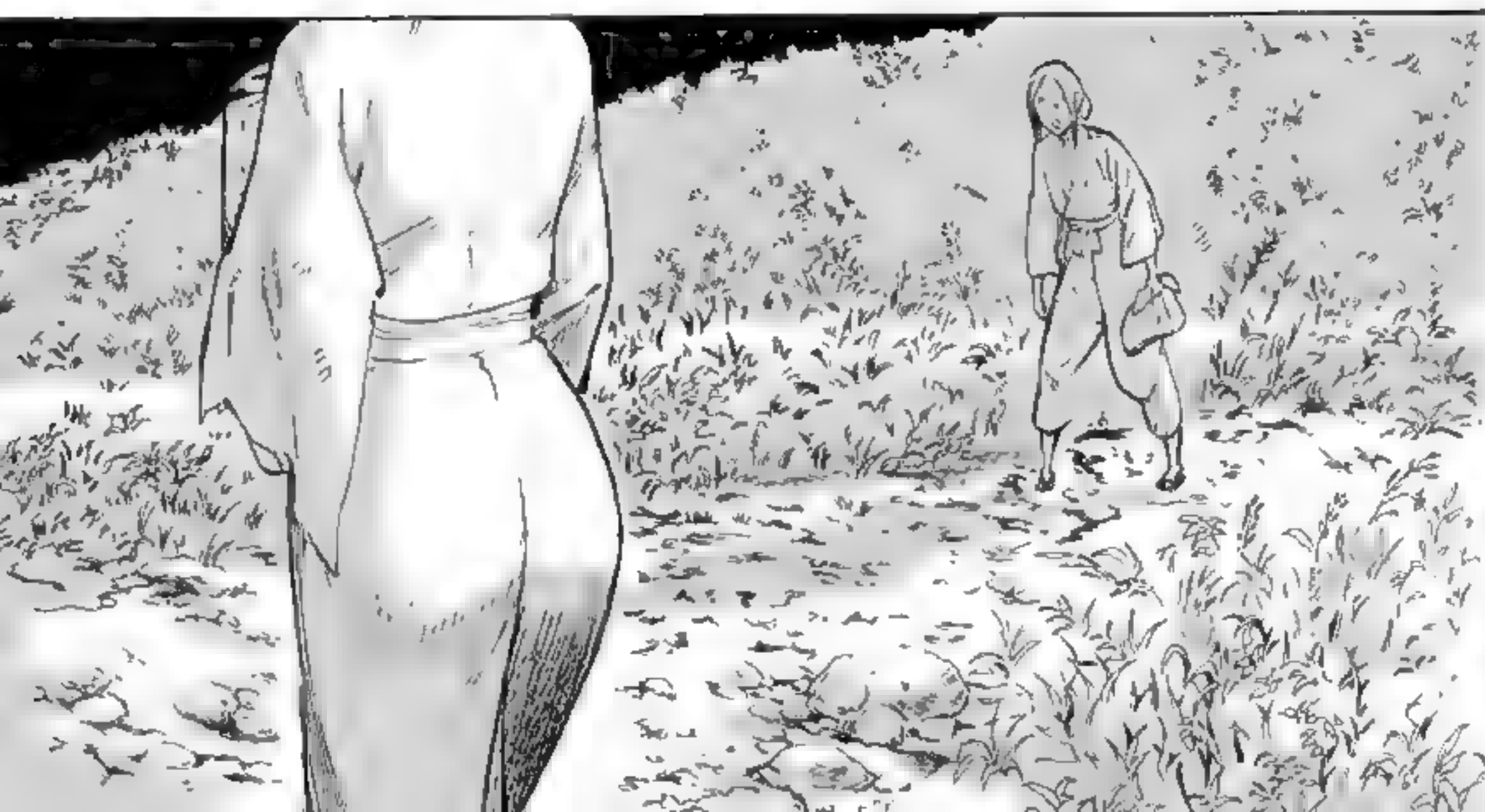
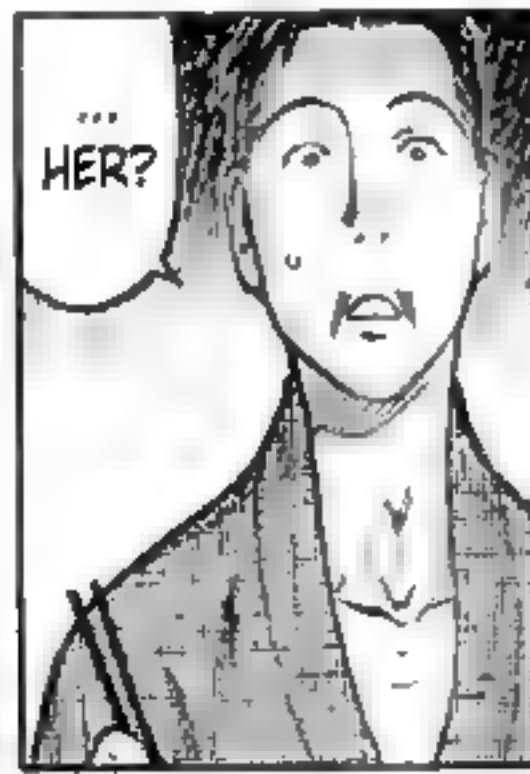
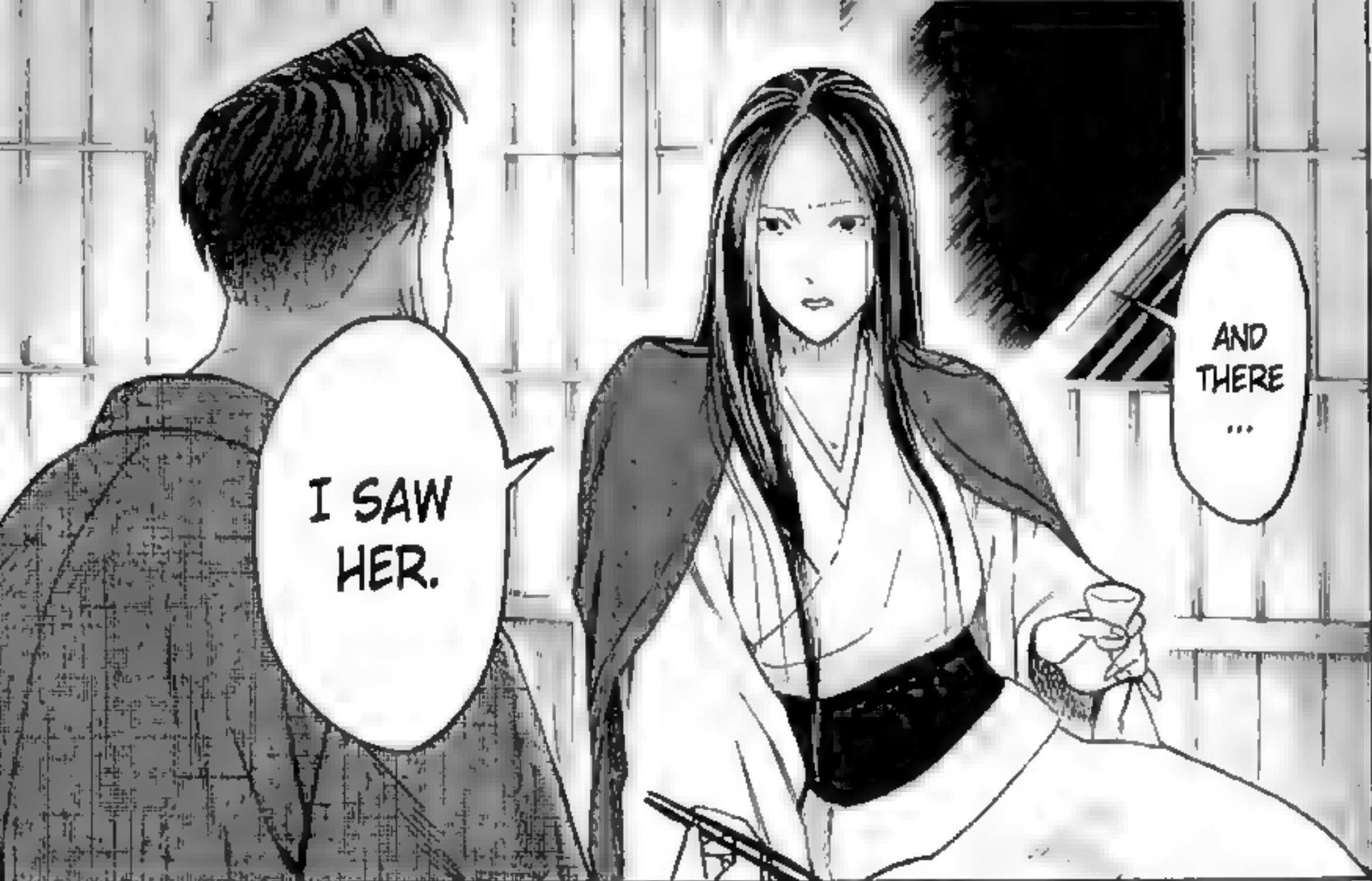


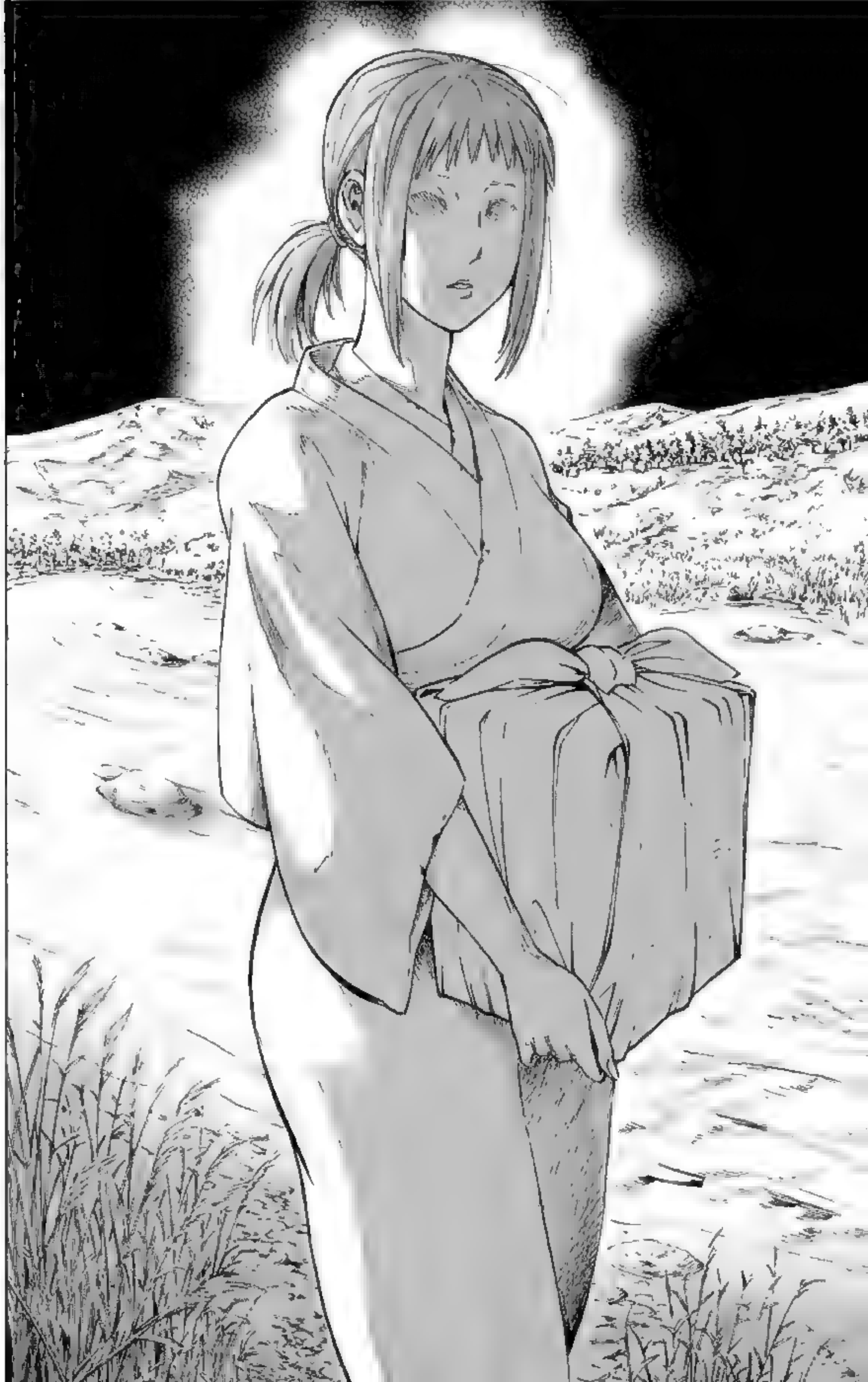
I JUST
WANTED
...



IN MY DAZE,
I STAGGERED
TOWARDS THE
TONEGAWA
RIVER...

LOOKING
BACK ON
IT NOW,
I MUST
HAVE BEEN
POSSESSED
...







SHE MUST
HAVE MY
HUSBAND'S
HEAD!

BY THAT
TIME,
NOBUYOSHI
HAD BEEN
DEAD FOR
A MONTH.



I'M
SORRY,
BUT...
WHO ARE
YOU?

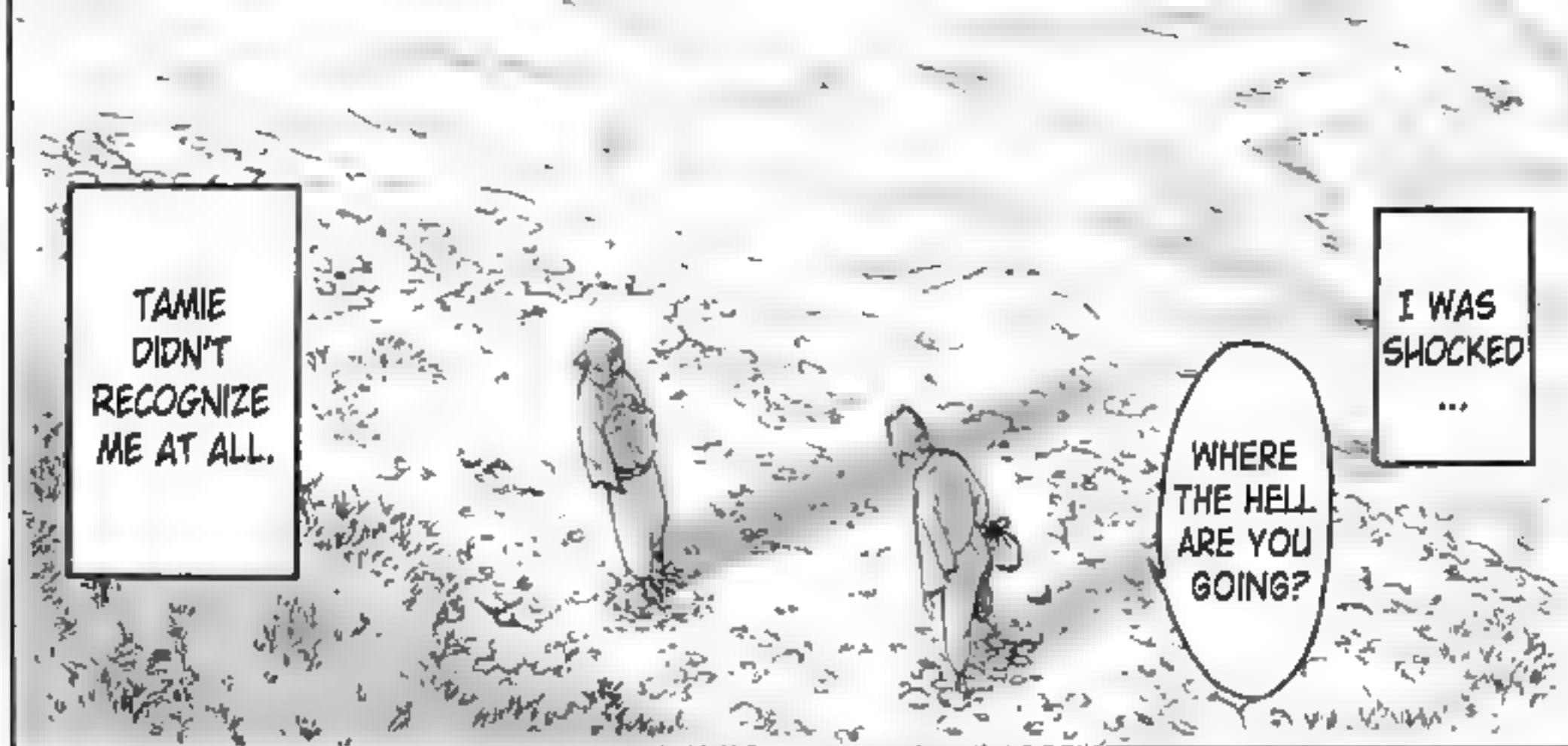
I'M AFRAID
I'M IN A
HURRY,
SO PLEASE
LET ME
PASS.



TAMIE!!



.....
?



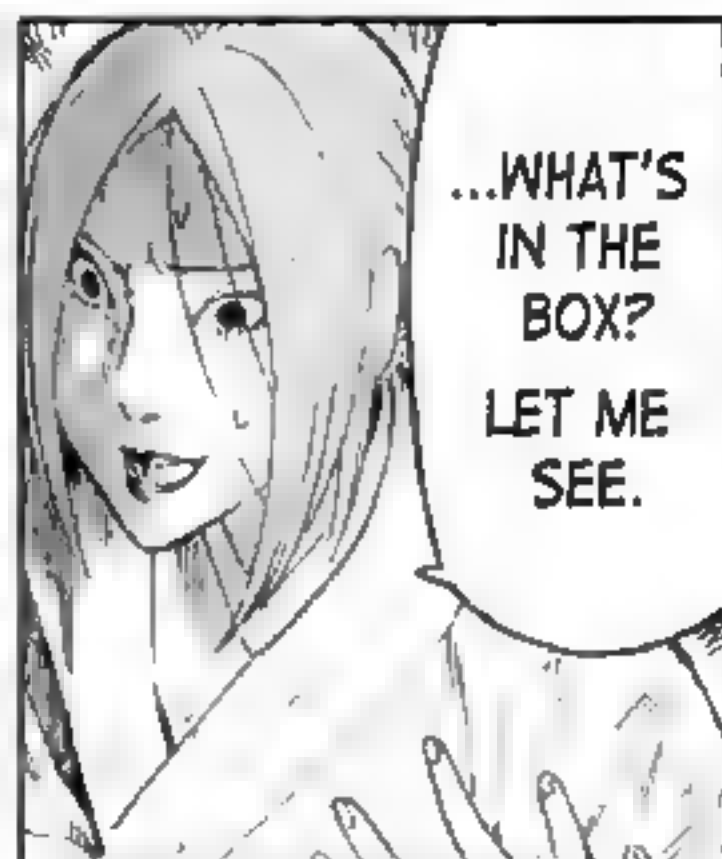
TAMIE
DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE
ME AT ALL.

I WAS
SHOCKED
...

WHERE
THE HELL
ARE YOU
GOING?



NO.
NO ONE
CAN SEE.



...WHAT'S
IN THE
BOX?
LET ME
SEE.



I'M
GOING
TO
ZUSHI.

PLEASE
LET ME
PASS.



**BUT
WHAT'S
IN THERE
BELONGS
TO ME!!**

GLARE



**GIVE ME
BACK MY
HUSBAND'S
HEAD!!**

**YOU'RE...
AKEMI-
CHAN!?**



!!

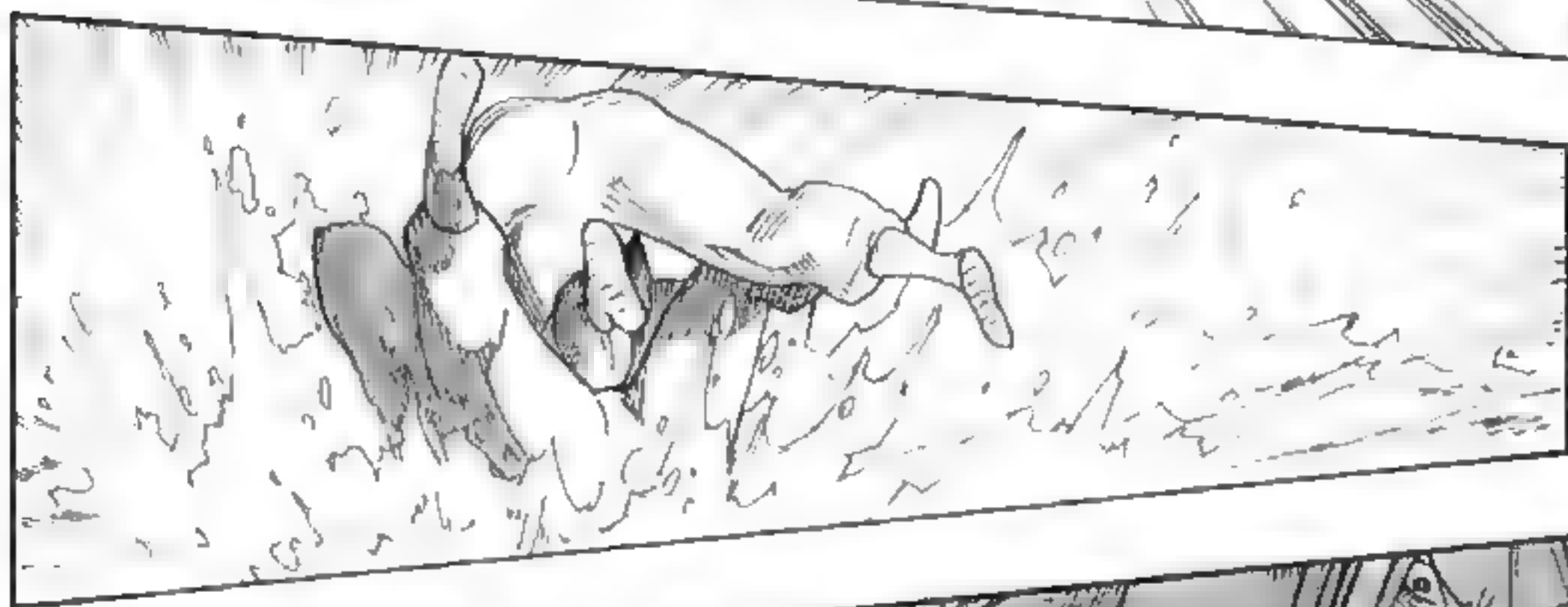


NO!!



**THAT BITCH
KILLED MY
HUSBAND
AND TOOK
HIS HEAD!**

**YOU
CAN'T
HAVE
IT!!**









AND
SO...

I KILLED
THAT
BITCH.



AND
THEN...







I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER...

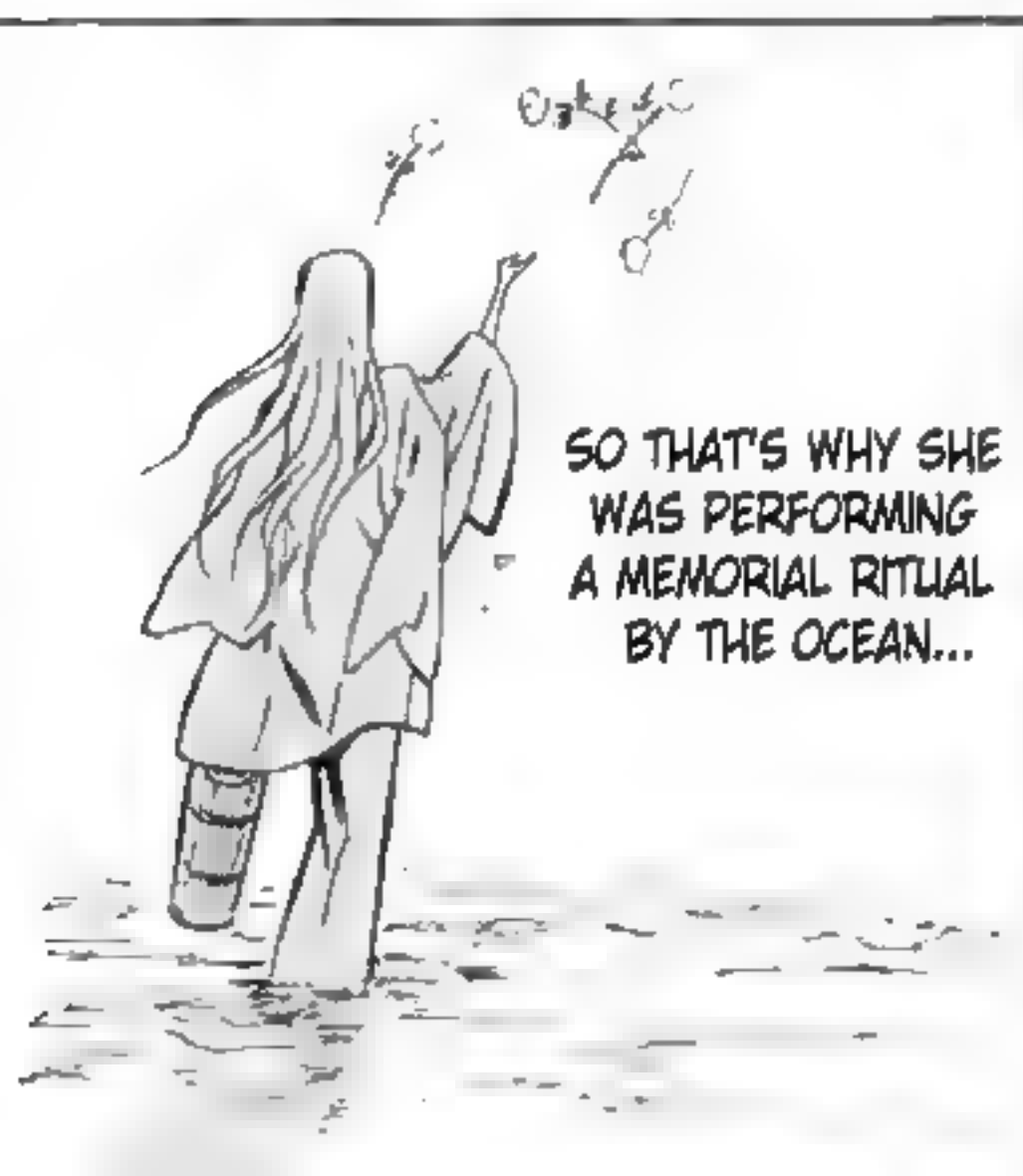
AS FAR AS
I KNOW,
HER BODY
WAS NEVER
FOUND...



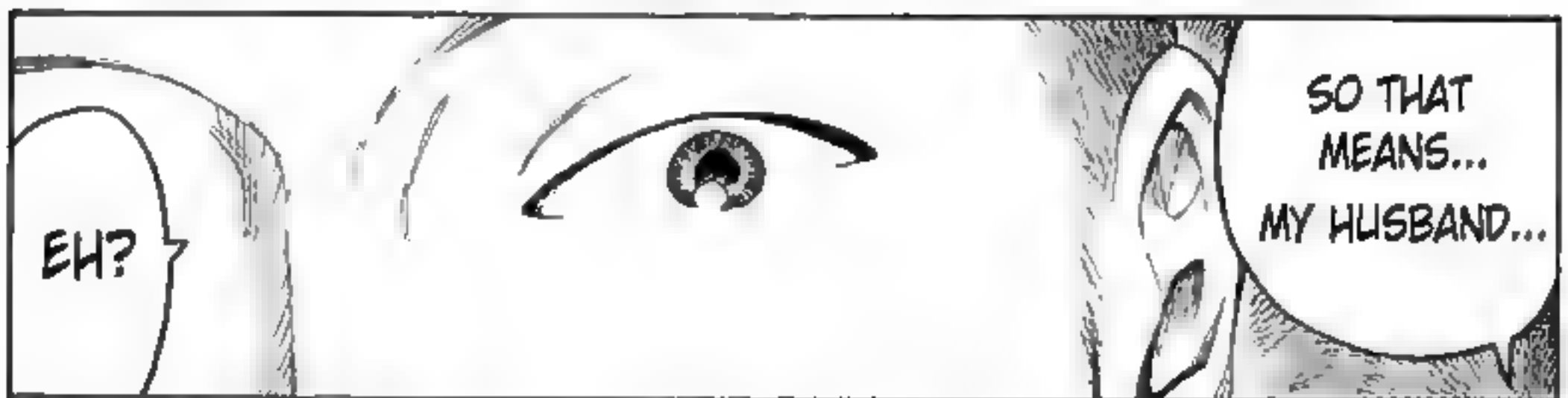
AND SO
I'VE BEEN
ABLE TO LIVE
A CAREFREE
LIFE
FOR THE
PAST EIGHT
YEARS.



BUT THE
TRUTH IS
THAT I'M A
MURDER-
ER...









WILL
ALL OF
MY SINS
AND
SORROWS
...

REMAIN IN
THIS WORLD
FOREVER?



IF...

IF THERE'S
SUCH A
THING AS
A SOUL,
DOES IT
REMAIN IN
THIS WORLD
AS LONG AS
THE BONES
EXIST?



EH?

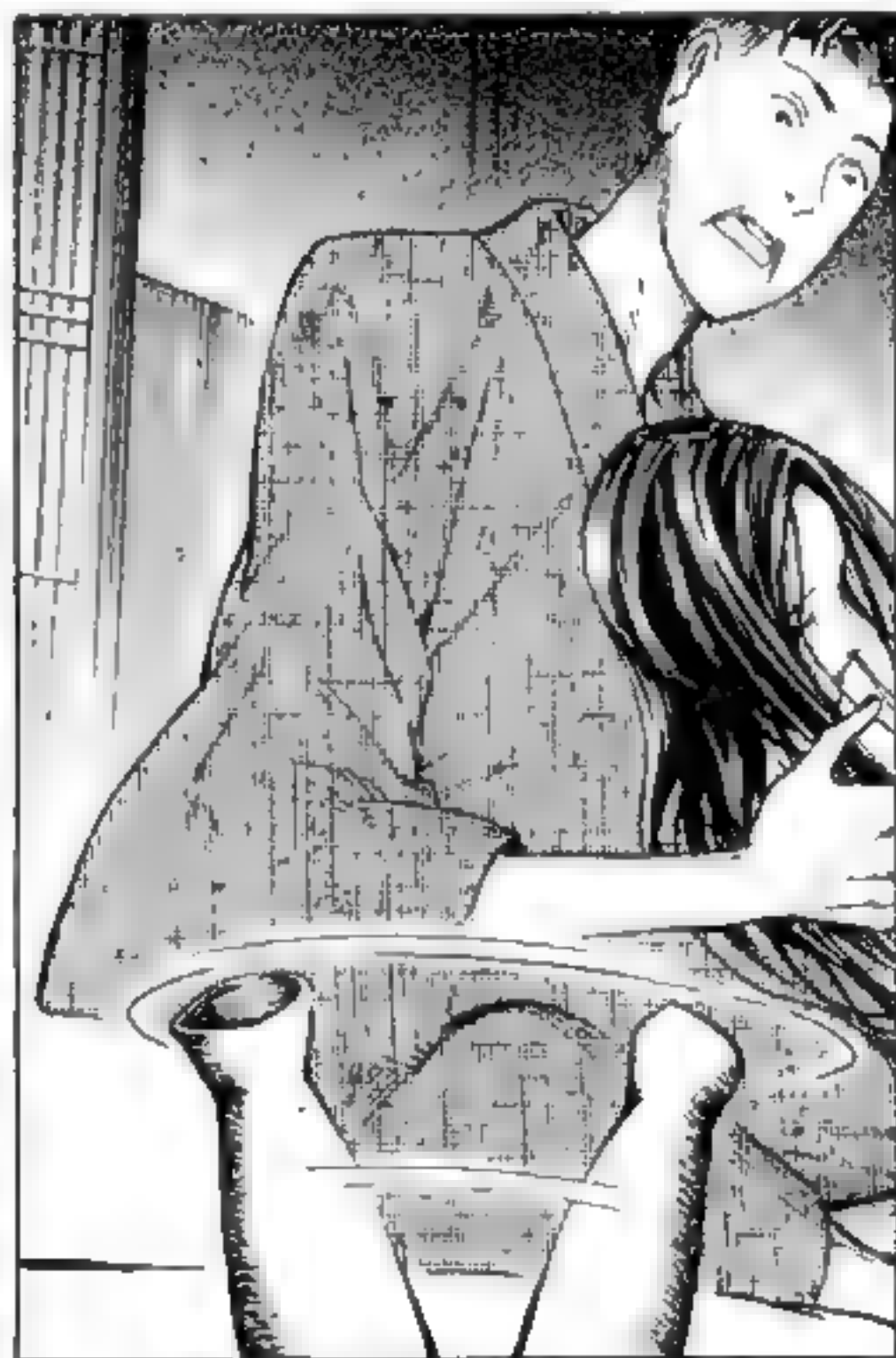


!



NOBU-
YOSHI'S
SKULL
MUST STILL
BE OUT
THERE
SOME-
WHERE...

IF
HIS BONES
STILL EXIST...
THEN
PERHAPS
A LITTLE
BIT OF HIS
SOUL STILL
EXISTS...





EH?



SHE'S
STILL
HERE
TOO.



BUT THAT'S
GOOD, RIGHT?
IT MEANS
YOU'RE NOT A
MURDERER.

SHE'S
STILL
...
ALIVE
SOME-
WHERE
...



TAMIE...
SHE'S
STILL
HERE.



TREMBLE
TREMBLE



IT DOESN'T
MATTER
WHETHER
SHE LIVED
OR DIED.

THERE WAS
MURDER IN
MY HEART,
AND IN MY
HANDS.

I'M
STILL A
MURDER-
ER.



MAYBE HIS
SEVERED HEAD
HAS BECOME
A BARE SKULL
BY NOW...

WHAT IF
SHE STILL
HAS MY
HUSBAND'S
BONES?

WHAT
IF...



IS SHE GOING
TO PUT IT
INSIDE THAT
ALTAR AND
WORSHIP IT OR
SOMETHING?

WHY DOES
SHE EVEN
WANT HIS
SKULL
BACK?



ISAMA-
SAN...



I FEEL
FEVER-
ISH...



YOU
KNOW
...

YOU REMIND
ME A LOT
OF MY
HUSBAND.





